THE NEW
INDIAN EXPRESS

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PETROL PRICES UP BY ₹4.52, DIESEL BY ₹4.64 IN 8 DAYS

Price of petrol went up by ₹0.62 and that of diesel by ₹0.64 as fuel prices were hiked for the eight day in a row on Sunday

FUEL DEMAND PICKS UP AS INDIA UNLOCKS

On March 16, facing a dip in domestic demand for oil and a slump in international benchmark prices, the oil companies had stopped daily fuel price revision, despite a hike in excise duty by the government two days earlier. But the daily price revision resumed 82 days later on June 7 as the coronavirus lockdown started easing and the demand for fuel picked up

HIT BY INCREASES IN EXCISE DUTY

- The hike in prices has added to the burden on consumers, who are already reeling under extensive layoffs and wage cuts
- Analysts say the two hikes in excise duties—which added ₹13 to the cost of petrol and ₹16 to that of diesel—sat heavily on oil companies, which avoided raising prices so far due to low demand

₹70.39

THE RETAIL PRICE OF ONE LITRE OF DIESEL IN BENGALURU ON SUNDAY

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

EXPRESS READ

Earthquake shakes parts of Gujarat

Ahmedabad: An earthquake of 5.3 magnitude shook Gujarat on Sunday night, with no major damage to property or life. But some houses in Kutch and nearby districts developed cracks.

India Inc's foreign borrowings dip 68.5%

Mumbai: Overseas borrowings by Indian companies dipped 68.5 per cent to $996.04 million in the month of April, according to data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Atlanta top cop quits over black man's killing

Atlanta: The police chief of this US city resigned on Sunday after a white officer fatally shot a black man on Friday night. The killing sparked a wave of anti-racism protests here. P9

WITH THIS ISSUE
THE ESSENTIAL CAMPUS DIGEST
edex YOUR LIFE COACH
32 PAGES, INCLUDING 16 OF EDEX (TABLOID) & 4 PAGES CITY EXPRESS

SHAH STEPS IN TO RAMP UP DELHI'S COVID DEFENCES

Union Home minister reviews situation with L-G, CM; all-party meet today

SANA SHAKIL & SIDDHANTA MISHRA @ New Delhi

UNION Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday stepped in to ramp up the fight against the coronavirus in the national Capital, where it is growing at an exponential pace. He announced a slew of measures, including more testing and boosting hospitalisation capacity.

More testing, more beds...

Delhi's testing capacity to be doubled over the next two days

500 railway coaches to be converted into Covid care facilities. This will add about 8,000 beds

60% of beds set aside for Covid patients in private hospitals to be available at a cheaper price

Doubling Covid-19 testing, converting 500 railway coaches into well-equipped Covid-19 care centres to enhance Delhi's bed capacity by 8,000, directing private hospitals to offer 60% of beds dedicated for coronavirus patients at a cheaper rate were the key decisions taken at a high-level meeting chaired by Shah. After doubling Delhi's testing capabilities within the next couple of days, it will be tripled after six days.

According to the Delhi government's recent submission in the Delhi High Court, the combined daily testing capacity of 40 labs — 17 public and 23 private — is 8,600 per day.

Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan, Lieutenant Governor Anil Baijal and Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal participated in the meeting with Shah.

For effective contact tracing in containment zones, a comprehensive house-to-house health survey of every person will be done and its report submitted in a week. The number of containment zones in the city has risen from 122 on June 1 to 242. For proper monitoring, Shah said, the Aarogya Setu app will be downloaded in every person's mobile phone.

"In view of shortage of beds, the Modi government will provide 500 coaches equipped with all facilities," he added. Shah said the government will issue new guidelines for conducting the last rites of those who succumb to the virus so as to help reduce the waiting period for the funeral.

Shah also announced that a joint team of doctors from the Union health ministry, Delhi government's health department, AIIMS and the three Municipal Corporation of Delhi will visit all Covid-designated hospitals in the city to evaluate the situation. To help speed up the fight against Covid, four senior IAS officers were transferred to the Delhi government on Sunday.

Soon after the meeting, Kejriwal government pulled up its socks, ordering officials to set up 20,000 more beds in a week. Shah will hold an all-party meet on Monday at 11 am. The parties include AAP, Congress, BJP, BSP and SP. P4,5,7

PRAYER IN THE AGE OF COVID

Worshippers keep distance as they attend a drive-in mass organised by Bethel AG Church in Bengaluru on Sunday amid the ongoing lockdown | SHRIRAM BN | REPORT ON: P2

No plan to have another lockdown, says minister

The mortality rate is not alarming as only 86 people have died. While it is 1.1% in K'taka, the national average is 2.8%. People need not be afraid, but should exercise caution

Dr K Sudhakar, Karnataka Medical Education Minister

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Kalaburagi

AMID speculation over reimposition of the lockdown, Medical Education Minister Dr K Sudhakar on Sunday stressed that there is no such proposal before the State Government.

Chairing a meeting of officials to review the steps taken to control spread of Covid-19 in Karnataka, Dr Sudhakar pointed out that the recovery rate in the state is more than satisfactory and the mortality rate too is less than the country's average.

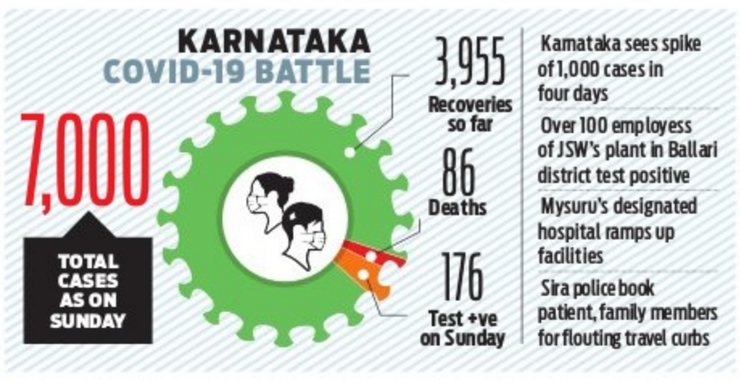
"When such is the case, where is the question of imposing the lockdown again? These are just rumours," he said.

Amid rising cases infections, there was apprehension that the lockdown may be clamped down again as Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to talk to Chief Ministers on June 16 and 17.

"On June 17, our state will be taking part in it around 3 pm, where the current situation will be discussed", he said.

So far, 7,000 people in the state have been infected with Covid-19 of whom 3,955 have been cured and discharged from hospitals. The recovery rate is over 54 per cent and there are 2,956 active cases, he pointed out.

"The mortality rate is not alarming as only 86 people have died. While it is 1.1 per cent in Karnataka, the national average is 2.8 per cent. People need not be afraid, but should exercise caution," he said. Across the state, 71 laboratories are conducting swab tests of symptomatic patients, the minister added.



Kamataka sees spike of 1,000 cases in four days

Over 100 employess of JSW's plant in Ballari district test positive

Mysuru's designated hospital ramps up facilities

Sira police book patient, family members for flouting travel curbs

In corona times, doctors give blood to fight shortage

IFFATH FATHIMA @ Bengaluru

DOCTORS at Victoria Hospital here, who are on the front lines in the war against Covid-19, are fighting a battle on another flank too — dealing with shortage of blood.

Due to the lockdown, no blood donation camps were held over the past few months and blood banks across the city were facing a severe shortage. The one at Victoria Hospital was left with only six bags of blood on June 6. Realising the gravity of the situation, the resident doctor, along with other undergraduate and postgraduate students at the hospital, took the lead to donate blood.

Though the hospital did not require blood, as it has become a designated Covid-19 hospital, the demand from other hospitals was high and other blood banks were running short of blood.

The moment the doctors were alerted, they decided to form groups and donate blood. Over the past week, the Victoria Hospital blood bank has collected about 35-40 pints of blood. CONTINUED ON: P5

Sulking Cong unit puts Uddhav govt on notice

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

A sulking Maharashtra Congress has put the three-party coalition government, led by Uddhav Thackeray, on notice, saying it would no longer accept playing a junior role in power sharing and decision-making. Sources said Congress chief Sonia Gandhi went to the extent of advising the state unit to take the call on walking out of the alliance if it continues to be loaded against it.

Senior party leader Ashok Chavan said that keeping the BJP out of power should not read as weakness, adding the voices of Congress ministers are not heard in the Thackeray government. "I am confident that the Chief Minister will address all these issues and fair and equitable distribution of power will happen in the coalition," he claimed.

Sources in Congress griped about ally NCP fielding its second candidate, Fauzia Khan, for the Rajya Sabha polls without consulting it. "Also, when elections to the nine vacant seats in the state legislative council were held, all three parties in the coalition could have fielded two candidates each. But the Congress was forced to give the ticket to only one, because Thackeray insisted on an unopposed election. We were forced to withdraw the second candidate's name. We went along because the CM promised an equal share of power," said a senior Congress leader. In the end, the Maha Vikas Aghadi picked up five, and the BJP four seats without a contest.

Now, 12 state legislative council seats in the Governor's quota are up for grabs. "Each of the three ruling parties should get four seats. But we have been told that the Congress will get only three, while the Shiv Sena and the NCP will get five and four respectively, based on their strength in the Assembly. This is completely unfair. Why should the Congress tolerate it?" he added.

GONE TOO SOON

Sushant was a talented actor of science & faith, and a searching human being

SHILAJIT MITRA

My first assignment as an entertainment journalist in Mumbai was an interview of Sushant Singh Rajput. It was June 2017, a few days before the release of *Raabta*. Too young to be made an anchor, I was relegated to the task of assistant cameraman. The setup I was handed (and barely knew how to operate) was a small, rigged iPhone — not a bulky TV camera typically used on such shoots. As Sushant settled down with his co-star Kriti Sanon, he cast a curious look in my direction. "iPhone shoot?" he wondered aloud. I might have thought he may look down on it, but then, he added, "How cool."

Sushant was ever a man of the future. The actor was always seeking out new paths, new innovations. He shared a deep love for science and cosmology, and his film choices were marked by this need to experiment. He started out on television, debuting in the romantic show *Kis Desh Mein Hai Meraa Dil* and later breaking out with the household hit *Pavitra Rishta*. The restrictive nature of Indian soap operas is well known, but Sushant was already making a mark. Asked about his impressions of the actor, director Dibakar Banerjee later commented that he found him 'understated on TV', which, as anyone can tell you, is a miracle in itself.

This knack for restraint was evident in his big screen debut, *Kai Po Che!*, where he played the inflammable ex-cricketer Ishaan. Lean and bewhiskered, Sushant soared over Abhishek Kapoor's dusty friendship drama, announcing himself as the next big thing in Bollywood. Two big-bannered vehicles followed — *Shuddh Desi Romance*, *PK* — and for a while, his journey seemed resigned to the beats of mainstream stardom.

SUSHANT SINGH RAJPUT
21-01-1986 • 14-06-2020

Sushant, though, responded with an astonishing choice, appearing as the newest iteration of the 20th century Bengali sleuth in Dibakar's *Detective Byomkesh Bakshi!* It was a matter of great cultural debate — and I had my own reservations against the film's narrative as well as his performance. Yet, there was no denying that this was a good kind of a shake-up. CONTINUEDON: P5

NO SUICIDE NOTE FOUND, SAY POLICE

Sushant Singh Rajput found hanging in his Bandra apartment on Sunday morning. He was 34

An accidental death report will be registered on the basis of preliminary information. No suicide note found

Police claim they did not find any foul play in their initial investigation

His died days after his former manager, Disha Salian (28), ended her life by jumping from a high-rise on June 9

His body was later brought to the Dr R N Cooper Municipal General Hospital in Juhu. He is survived by his father and four elder sisters | P8

ALMANAC TODAY
Monday 15/06/2020 • Year: Sarvari • Ayana : Uttharayana • Ritu: Greeshma
Masa: Jyeshta • Paksha: Krishna • Tithi: Dashami 4.52 am • Nakshatra: Revathi 3.08 am
Moon in Mesha Rashi • Rahukaala: 07:30 am to 09:00 am
Gulikakala: 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • Yamaganda: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER WATCH
MIN 22°C | MAX 29°C
FORECAST
Clearing skies

Sunrise 5.53 am
Sunset 6.46 pm
Moonrise 1.36 am
Moonset 1.53 pm

It's 'worship on wheels' at church under Covid glare

The faithful took part in as many as six drive-in services

FULL GOSPEL CHURCH SLOTS FOR DAILY MASS

At the Full Gospel Assemblies of God, Indiranagar and Kannuru, which has a congregation of 27,000, meticulous planning is under way to accommodate all members and maintain social distancing. Faithful are divided into 70 zones and asked to attend the specific service marked for them on the given day and time. As many as 48 services are scheduled per week. At the church building, they will be thermal-scanned and sanitized. Founder and Senior Pastor Rev Paul Thangiah said the church has planned six services, Monday to Saturday, at 8 am, 10 am, 12 pm, 2 pm, 4 pm and 6 pm and seven services on Sunday with an additional service at 6 am.

PEARL MARIA D'SOUZA @Bengaluru

THE three-acre property of this Bengaluru church resembled a drive-in facility on Sunday as the faithful 'gathered' in their vehicles, to be physically present at the Eucharistic Celebration.

Cars and bikes drove into the ground, masked passengers were thermal-screened and given sanitisers, and also handed over a hygienically pre-packaged communion element at the gate, which was consumed during the service. Vehicles occupied slots and the Mass began.

This is a new format that Bethel AG Church International Worship Centre, Hebbal, has tried out for attendees.

"The church which started in 1997 has a floating population of worshippers who attend online, but there are many who would like to be physically present as coming together is part of our belief," Johnson V, Pastor-in-charge of the centre, told *TNIE*.

"This is the first time the church was attempting 'worship on wheels' . There was no trial run, but the church used a computer-based simulation for arranging the entry and exit of the vehicles," Johnson said.

The church met after a gap of 13 weeks. "We made meticulous arrangements to ensure that all the government guidelines are followed and social distancing is maintained at all times," Johnson added.

The church held six services altogether, two for bikers at 7am and 5pm, two for those with cars at 9am and 7pm, and also two for those walking in at 11am and 1pm. "It was a 100% contactless service, the church is contemplating a similar service on Saturdays," he said.

For those above the age of 65 and below 10 who are disallowed from coming to the premises, the church continues to stream its service online to ensure they are safe at home. During lockdown, when services were taken online, the church saw participation from over 100 countries on their website.

Members of Bethel AG Church International Worship Centre in Hebbal attend Mass in their vehicles on Sunday | SHRIRAM BN

THE 'SPARTAN' ON THE RUN

Sanjay Negi, a Bengaluru-based fitness coach, trains for an obstacle race called 'Spartan', to be held in Abu Dhabi on December 5. He will also participate in a 100-mile race in India. As part of his training, he runs long distances on Sundays. On other days, he covers 15-25 km. On Sunday, he started at 4.15 am from BTM Layout and took Outer Ring Road, touching Mysuru Road-Tumakuru Road-Hebbal-KR Puram-Marathahalli-Silk Board and back — a distance of 101.3 km in 10 hours | MEGHANA SASTRY

A 'DWAAR' TO SANITISATION FOR STUDENTS ENTERING IISc

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

RIGHT before the first set of students from outside Karnataka set foot into the campus, the Indian Institute of Science has set up an elaborate sanitisation mechanism that has been developed by in-house startups — Srushti Innovation by former professor of Aerospace Engineering K P J Reddy and Papercats by Gururaj Nayak.

A total of 1,181 PhD, MTech and Integrated PhD students residing within and outside the state are expected to return during the first phase. Those from within Karnataka were given a slot from June 8 to 10 and those from outside are expected to return from June 15 to 20, as per institute authorities.

The tunnel 'Dwaar' ensures complete sanitisation of individuals and their luggage in 20 seconds. To use the facility, one only has to place the luggage in the UV-based bag sanitization chamber, stretch a hand for sanitiser at a sensor-based system, then go on to the first step to the chamber which doubles as a shoe sole sanitiser. Wave a hand to open the door, and a wall-embedded camera checks for temperature under authorised levels.

The person then enters an air blower, following which a hand gesture allows the exit, from where the person can collect the luggage and sanitize hands again. The tunnel also works as a measure of surveillance too, with an automated ID checking mechanism.

Prof Jagadeesh, who has mentored the teams that have developed the tunnel, said the facility is predominantly for students who come back to hostels from outside Karnataka. For other staffers, there is thermal scanning.

At present, the facility is only set up at the main gate entrance, opposite BHEL.

BBMP: Malls in containment zones will remain shut

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

BBMP has clarified that shopping malls located in containment zones will remain closed.

The civic agency has advised children below 10 years and those aged above 65 years, those with comorbidities, pregnant women and children below 10 years to stay at home, except for essential services and health purposes. But it has left to the discretion of mall managements outside containment areas, to permit them to enter.

In malls that have been allowed to open, large gatherings and congregations will remain prohibited, and gaming arcades, children play areas and cinema halls will stay shut, BBMP said in its advisory.

Physical distancing of 6 feet, wearing of masks, sanitising of hands to be followed. Restrictions placed on the number of people inside elevators, frequent disinfection of door knobs, elevators, handrails, benches to be taken up. Norms have also been issued for air conditioning (to range between 24 and 30 degrees Celsius), seating arrangements and markings for queues.

Norms for ENT clinics

The BBMP advisory states that performing endoscopy -- nasal, rigid or flexible endoscopy for the larynx — should be avoided in a routine clinic or OPD. If there is a pressing need to perform it, second-level protective gear should be used.

Teleconsultation should be preferred and crowding of patients should be discouraged.

Lockdown stress among students will be new worry, say experts

PEARL MARIA D'SOUZA @ Bengaluru

STUDENTS across the board have faced diverse problems coping with the lockdown, and psychologists are of the view that after the pandemic, there could be a wave of mental health issues among children, who are in their formative years.

"A student of Class 12 was worried about what the future held -- when colleges would open and if he would make the cut," said a child psychologist.

Various organisations, in collaboration with UNICEF, have also set up a telecounselling centre 'Swasti', where 50 psychologists help children cope with stress.

Child psychologist Manika Ghosh, who is associated with 'Swasti', told TNIE that there is a need to strengthen resilience in children, and try to engage them in fun activities like storytelling.

She warns against worrying about examinations, which is becoming common these days, especially with parents being competitive. "Even if you lose one year or six months, you have your life and will bounce back," she adds.

The stressors for students across age groups are different — kindergarteners miss freedom and feel claustrophobic, which can be stressful especially as parents can't take them out either. At a higher level, children miss their classrooms, friends and mischief. For those in Class 10, 12 and beyond, there is a huge amount of despair, Ghosh adds. In all this, parents play a big role in understanding emotions, she said.

An education department official admitted that the administration did not have a strategy in place to alleviate stress of students, and it was the responsibility of teachers to be in constant touch with students.

The Department of College Education has now roped in Sandalwood actor and anchor Ramesh Aravind to interact to students over a webinar on June 18, on the department's YouTube channel 'Vijayi Bhava'. Ramesh will talk about 'Success Formulae for Students', and aim to involve college students.

EXPRESS READ

Police inspector asks staff to salute with 'Jai Hind'

Bengaluru: In a bid to inculcate patriotism in police personnel, the police inspector of HAL station has instructed all his staffers to salute their senior officers with the slogan 'Jai Hind'. In a memo issued recently, inspector Mohan asked his station staffers to cultivate this habit "as part of national feeling". The practice of saying 'Jai Hind' while saluting is common in the India Army and also among policemen in North Indian states. When contacted whether such an instruction can be passed, a senior police officer said though it was not mandatory to say 'Jai Hind' while saluting in the Karnataka police department, there was no problem if the staff say it on their own. "However, they can't be compelled to say so, unless there is a clear order from the Home department," said the officer. ENS

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

15th June : Gemini is my sign of the day. As it happens this is a sign of lovers in the broadest sense. It favours people who are in love with ideas, places and dreams as well as with other people. The flipside, of course, is that they don't often show it! Never mind. It leaves the rest of us to get on with real life

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
Try to have a business-like start to the day. It would be a shame to miss out on the Moon's alignment with financial regions of your chart, indicating that you may now take responsibility for money - and that you can't blame anyone else if you pay over the odds.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
When the Moon is as helpful as it is right now, life has to improve. It should be enough to convince you that private affairs and professional offers are generally favourable, just as long as you can cope with a few unexpected mood swings. You don't have to worry about the past - at least not today.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
The Moon is already sending emotional ripples through your affairs. Just for now there are probably one or two things you need to keep to yourself, so feel free to do so. Socially, you may go for entertainments which are tried and tested, ones which avoid risks and potential embarrassment.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
The long-term pattern of your life has now shifted, and you will be obliged to go back over old matters that you thought were dead and buried. Don't see this as a waste of time, but as a typically eccentric way of moving forward by going sideways.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
Your outlook, tactics and general approach are all capable of creating a stir, especially at work. It's a day for competition rather than co-operation, so you should feel at home. The trick is not to mind whether you fail or not, for unless you come unstuck occasionally, you'll never discover your real strengths.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
Use your time profitably to press on with educational matters, check up on travel plans and generally make sure that you know your rights. Broaden your horizons, and don't let others force you into a corner. In other words, put aside the habits of a lifetime!

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
At least you should now have the courage to press on with business plans. It looks as if family and domestic expenditure are high up the agenda, but there'll be time enough in the future for luxuries and treats. Your current priority should be to consolidate your gains.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
You really do have to accept that there is no time like the present for making firm decisions. You have become used to delaying tactics, even to obstruction from those who should know better, but this is about to change. You never know - you might even receive an apology. But don't count on it!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
In a matter of days you will recover your ability to think straight and take the right decisions. Hopefully others will recognise that your judgment is back on top form. Just for today, you should focus on purely routine matters, if only to catch up with yourself.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
Much of the visible planetary activity takes place in the regions of your chart which encourage you to take the initiative, rather than sitting back and waiting for other people. Of course, for that to happen, you have to be sure of what you want, and that's another matter entirely.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
Romantic secrets and feelings which you've been keeping to yourself for far too long, are about to be revealed. It will therefore pay you to have your story ready rather than being caught on the hop. The last thing you want now is extra embarrassment.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
Nobody should underestimate the power of the Piscean mind. In spite of your often vague manner, you will now show that you are quite capable of both conjuring up interesting ideas and putting them into practice before others have realised what's going on.

THE PHANTOM

HI AND LOIS

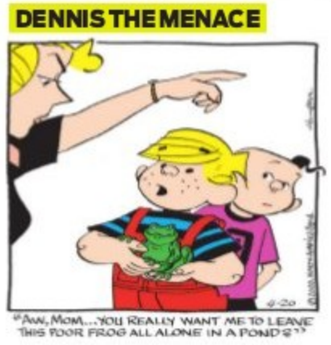
BEETLE BAILEY

BLONDIE

WHAT? YOU FINISHED THE PLUNDERMAN REPORT TODAY?
YEAH...I FEEL WEIRD TODAY
THEN TAKE A BREAK!
NAH...I'M JUST OUT OF SYNC BECAUSE OF THE TIME CHANGE
IF I'D KNOWN THAT WOULD'VE THROWN HIM OFF, I'D HAVE CHANGED THE CLOCKS THREE MONTHS AGO!

LOCKHORNS

DENNIS THE MENACE



Test your number crunching skill with our unique puzzle

SUDOKU

			7		3			
3		1					9	
					2	6	3	7
2	1			7		4	6	9
9								5
7	5	4		6			8	2
6	8	7	4					
	3					8		1
			3		7			

MEDIUM

- Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.
- Each sudoku has a unique solution that can be reached logically without guessing.

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle

2	7	1	8	5	3	6	9	4
3	4	5	6	2	9	1	7	8
6	9	8	4	7	1	3	2	5
5	6	9	3	4	8	2	1	7
1	3	2	7	9	5	4	8	6
4	8	7	2	1	6	9	5	3
8	1	4	5	3	2	7	6	9
9	5	3	1	6	7	8	4	2
7	2	6	9	8	4	5	3	1

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

BYOLB
WNNOK
CENALC
RSOKEH

Wow! You really have a lot of detail!
I'm suited for a higher-end user.
$99.99
$19.99
$88.88
What door would you open?
I'm a master bedroom type of handle.
$11.99
BEING NEAR THE EXPENSIVE DOOR HANDLES MEANT THE LOW-COST ONES WERE ABLE TO ---
Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

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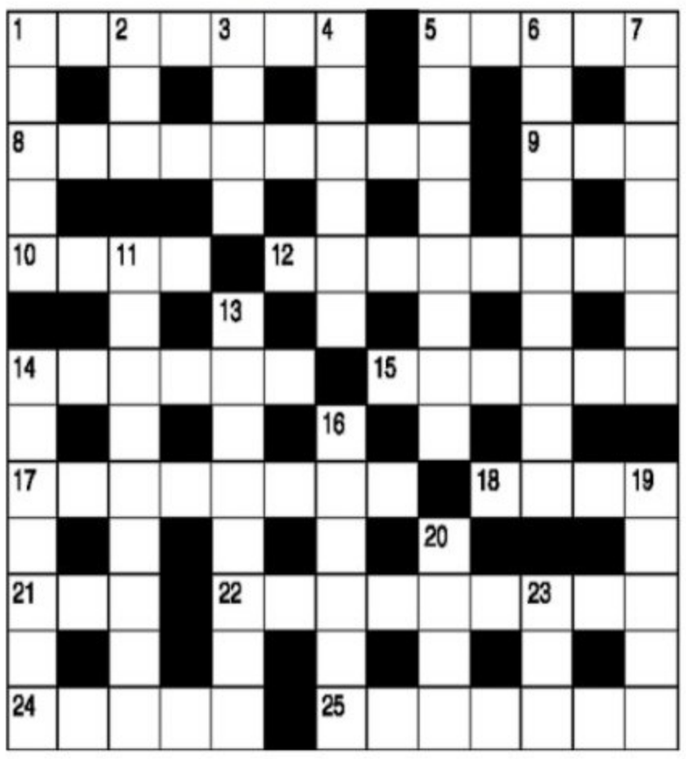
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print your answer here: " ( ) - ( ) "

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: KIOSK SPURN COUNTY LARGER
Answer: You shouldn't iron a four-leaf clover unless you want to — PRESS YOUR LUCK

CROSS WORD



ACROSS

1 Warning advice to an introvert (4,3)
5 A word for currency's ups and downs (5)
8 Church and state divided by uncommon hatred (9)
9 Ready for collection (3)
10 A resounding comeback (4)
12 A game involving more of us (8)
14 Cold tart (6)
15 Brings back games and increases keenness (6)
17 What scores of young people are in? (8)
18 Voyage any skipper would try to avoid (4)
21 Take food from the attendant (3)
22 Distressed wine lover naturally a glutton (9)
24 How music may be distinguished? (5)
25 Unusually bold use of lookalikes (7)

DOWN

1 Money is a bait that takes many in (5)
2 Absent in error (3)
3 Warning that a man is about to cry (4)
4 Swing round to attack or start running (4,2)
5 Endure - strange to relate (8)
6 Not to pay a cheque results in disgrace (9)
7 Settler distributes mail (7)
11 African who provides a warming drink about ten (9)
13 Given, and ideally shouldn't be paid back (8)
14 Bird after a piece for another (7)
16 Leased out or shut up (6)
19 Please cut down the excuses (5)
20 A state of pure chaos (4)
23 I will be briefly unwell (3)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Protract, 5 Hasp, 9 Found, 10 Seaside, 11 Missionaries, 13 Lotion, 14 Sexton, 17 Express train, 20 Inkwell, 21 Until, 22 Garb, 23 Gradient.

Down: 1 Puff, 2 Oculist, 3 Rediscovered, 4 Castor, 6 Alibi, 7 Pressing, 8 Parade ground, 12 Altering, 15 Thistle, 16 Ostler, 18 Poker, 19 Flat.

Adugodi police booked a man for stealing the official letterhead of an MNC and forging the MD's signature to apply for a business visa to Ireland. A case was filed when the Irish immigration department approached the company for verification. The company's GM alleged that the accused, Shivashaktivelu Pannirselvam, was not their employee

Nadda heaps praise on 'pro-active' Yediyurappa

At virtual rally, BJP national president thanks Covid warriors and party workers, appreciates land reforms

BJP national chief J P Nadda and Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman attend the Karnataka Jan Samvad at the BJP headquarters in New Delhi on Sunday

CM Yediyurappa has been proactive during this fight against Covid with 4Ts — Testing, Tracing, Treating and Technology. With the use of technology, his government has been able to monitor hospitals remotely

J P Nadda, BJP national president

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

BJP national president J P Nadda was all praise for Karnataka's handling of Covid-19 with special mention to Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa on Sunday during a virtual address. Nadda highlighted the achievements of the Narendra Modi government 2.0 as he addressed thousands of BJP leaders and workers in Karnataka as part of his Jana Samvada virtual rally.

Union ministers D V Sadananda Gowda, Nirmala Sitharaman and Pralhad Joshi shared the stage with Nadda in New Delhi as BJP State president Nalin Kumar Kateel and Yediyurappa connected to the rally from the party's state unit headquarters.

"Chief Minister Yediyurappa has been proactive during this fight against Covid-19 with 4Ts-- Testing, Tracing, Treating and Technology. With the use of technology, his government has been able to monitor hospitals remotely, create a Covid-19 awareness response team to keep citizens informed and fight fake news. His government's initiative of 'Dasoha' has ensured poor migrant labourers were not left hungry," said Nadda towards the conclusion of his speech. He also appreciated the State government's decision to amend land reforms act to allow easier land purchase for industries and the amendment to APMC act allowing free markets for farmers.

Throughout his address, Nadda thanked the Covid warriors as well as BJP workers who have been involved in volunteering work to help those in need. ''Under the #FeedtheNeedy programme, around 19 crore people were provided cooked meals. About 5 crore people were also provided ration kits for 10-20 days each,'' he said congratulating party workers.

Nadda hailed the Modi government for CAA, Article 370, the abolition of triple talaq, UAPA, its management of Covid-19 crisis and SC's order on Ayodhya. "The Aatmanirbhar package isn't just about paying money to the poor. It is about reforms, about removing bottlenecks and a vision as to how India can be made self-reliant. PM Modi wants to transform this crisis into opportunity," he added highlighting that Yediyurappa too had announced an economic package to help those in need.

STRAWS IN THE WIND

Unity song, and papering over the cracks

While there has been a lot of chatter about shock Rajya Sabha candidates Eranna Kadadi and Ashok Gasti, many in the BJP volunteered to say that the two members were BJP national general secretary B L Santosh's men, and were just proxies in the battle for one-upmanship in the BJP. One senior loyalist disagreed, and pointed out that the core committee had also sent the name of Santosh loyalist Nirmal Kumar Surana for the Rajya Sabha, but it had not been considered. "On whose side is Surana on -- BS Yediyurappa or Santosh?" he asked, as if to buttress his point. Then he popped another question, "Committee members Nalin Kateel, KS Eshwarappa and CT Ravi are on whose side?" Again, Santosh. So how can Santosh overrule Santosh, he concluded triumphantly, seeking to close the debate. "It's not about Yediyurappa or Santosh, we are all united," he said. Ok, if he insists, we will overlook the little divisions.

E-media goes off the edge again

Last Sunday, it was Chiranjeevi Sarja, this Sunday, it's actor Sushant Singh Rajput -- tragic deaths of two young actors. And this was enough for the electronic media to go berserk, in the hope of pumping up their TRPs with screeching commentary and conjecture. To which a very senior legal luminary commented on social media that this "no-holds-barred competition" should not drive media entities to be insensitive. He cautioned that one needs to follow guidelines laid down by the World Health Organization and other international organizations, and lamented the lack of sensitivity that often colours prime time TV.

BJP panel will meet today to shortlist MLC names

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE BJP core committee will meet on Monday evening to take up the issue of shortlisting names for the Legislative Council elections.

The frontrunners are those who moved to the BJP from the Congress-JDS alliance and helped the party form the government -- H Vishwanath, MTB Nagaraj, R Shankar.

Former JDS president and Hunsur MLA H Vishwanath, and former Cabinet minister and Hoskote MLA MTB Nagaraj had both lost the Assembly by-elections held in December 2019, necessitated after they moved to the BJP. Former minister and Ranebennur MLA R Shankar had heeded the BJP decision and not contested the bypoll.

Among the names from the BJP are those of Vokkaliga strongman CP Yogeshwara, who helped the party form the government, Nirmal Kumar Surana, considered to be resourceful for the party, and spokesman Go Madhusudhan.

The core committee is meeting after the Rajya Sabha embarrassment last week, where none of the names it had suggested were considered by the national leadership. Party leaders have been maintaining an embarrassed silence on the issue ever since.

Party sources said the BJP core committee, which includes Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa, state unit President Nalin Kumar Kateel, minister CT Ravi, senior minister KS Eshwarappa, among others, were surprised when the party high command rejected all the five names proposed --Prabhakar Kore, Prakash Shetty, Ramesh Katti, Ma Nagaraj and Nirmal Kumar Surana. The high command had offered no reason as to why these names were rejected.

Meanwhile, caste and regional representation remains important for the remaining seats. BJP is sure to get 9 out of 12 seats in the MLC quota, and is making careful plans to bag all four seats in the next round of elections to be held later, for the Teachers and Graduates constituencies.

The BJP is looking to get four members elected and five members nominated, with a 223-seat Assembly, including one nominated member.

VISHWANATH HITS BACK AT DyCM

Bengaluru: Deputy Chief Minister CN Ashwath Narayan's recent comment that "no promise was made" about accommodating Congress-JDS alliance rebel MLAs Adagur Vishwanath and MTB Nagaraj in the Legislative Council, has not gone down well with the aspirants. It may be recalled that Vishwanath had lost from Hunsur and MTB Nagaraj lost from Hoskote in the bypolls, and both were hoping to be nominated as BJP members in the Council.
Vishwanath on Sunday hit back at Narayan, asking, "Through whose contribution did Dr Ashwath Narayan become DyCM? How can he comment about what transpired between the CM and us, and the understanding we had? Ashwath Narayan was also with us in Mumbai, but we did not hold any meeting with him." We have no doubt that Yediyurappa will keep his word, Vishwanath told TNIE.

Narayana Gowda backs Vishwanath for Council

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Mysuru

MINISTER K C Narayana Gowda said that A H Vishwanath, who "stood" by him during the recent defection saga, would get an MLC ticket from the BJP.

His statement has come at a time when Deputy Chief Minister C N Ashwath Narayan commented that among those who defected from the coalition government, only R Shankar will be given an MLC ticket.

Interacting with media persons here on Sunday, the minister said the issue has already been conveyed to the high command and everyone wants Vishwanath to be the party nominee.

"As the BJP is a large party, there will be many aspirants, but the high command's decision will be final," he said, adding that the Vishwanath decision was taken "quite some time ago, and there is no confusion about it since it was everyone's wish."

When asked about the opposition to the proposed amendment to the Land Reforms Act, Narayana Gowda asserted that it will benefit farmers. He said the change will be conducive for a pro-industry environment in the state.

EXPRESS READ

Congress, BJP set sights on Belagavi APMC

Belagavi: The Congress and BJP have set their sights on the posts of chairman and vice-chairman of the Belagavi Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) for the next 20-month term. The Congress plans to elect its candidates with the support of the Maharashtra Ekikaran Samiti in the June 15 poll. The BJP, which has a majority in the state, is trying its best to elect candidates backed by the party. The Maharashtra Ekikaran Samiti (MES), with a majority of members, is still undecided whom they will lend their support to. The election process for Belagavi APMC will begin from June 15 and end on June 17. **ENS**

Parameshwara helps accident victim

Tumakuru: Former deputy chief minister Dr G Parameshwara, who has not been in the news lately, either because of the prevailing Covid-19 situation or changed political climate in the state, was the talking point in his constituency late last night. When he was on his way to Bengaluru, the Koratagere MLA came across an injured youth, Hareesh of Byragondlu, pleading for help in Kolala village. The Congress leader stopped his car, and rushed Hareesh to a hospital in one of the vehicles of his convoy. A video clip of the same went viral on social networking sites with people appreciating the politician's "timely assistance". **ENS**

QuoteExpress

OPPORTUNITY DOES NOT KNOCK, IT PRESENTS ITSELF WHEN YOU BEAT DOWN THE DOOR

-KYLE CHANDLER-

CRIME PATROL

BJP worker dies in a road accident

Bengaluru: A 51-year-old BJP worker died after he lost control of his bike and met with an accident in Madanayakanahalli on Saturday evening. Police said that he was not wearing a helmet and was riding recklessly. The deceased, Nagaraju N, was a resident of Karekal village in Nelamangala. He was running a newspaper called Mardani. A senior police officer said that the incident occurred in the evening when Nagaraju as was returning home after meeting his relatives in Yeswanthpur. In Byregowdanahalli, he lost control of his bike and fell sustaining serious head injuries. Passersby found him a few hours later and alerted the police who came to the spot. Since it was an accident, police filed a case of reckless driving. **ENS**

35-year-old woman ends life

Upset over health issues, a 35-year-old woman committed suicide by hanging in her house in HAL on Monday. The deceased is Vijaylakshmi Varma, a resident of Doddanekkundi. She was married to Sanjay Kumar, a private company employee. Police said Kumar returned from work at 5pm and found her body. He alerted HAL police and the body was shifted for postmortem. Police found a suicide note at the spot that stated that she holds no one responsible for her death. Varma was suffering from depression. A case of unnatural death has been registered and further investigations are on, police added. **ENS**

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ANAND RATHI
CIN No. U67190MH1982PLC140380
Anand Rathi Global Finance Limited
Registered Office : Express Zone, A Wing, 10th Floor, Western Express Highway, Goregaon (East), Mumbai - 400063. Maharashtra. Tel. : +91 22 6281 7002 Corporate Office : Express Zone, A Wing, 8th Floor, Western Express Highway, Goregaon (East), Mumbai 400063. Maharashtra. Tel. : +91 22 6281 7003. Website : www.rathi.com

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Anand Rathi Global Finance Limited, under the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued **Demand Notice dated 20th January, 2020** under Section 13 sub-section 2 of the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 calling upon the Borrower viz. **Vmaks Builders Private Limited and the Guarantors viz. (i) Mr. Ramaswamy Mahesh Babu (ii) Mr. Vasudeva Ramaswamy and (iii) Mr. Krishnappa Ankaiah**, to repay the amount mentioned in the **Demand Notice dated 20th January 2020** being **Rs. 7,32,14,540/- (Rupees Seven Crores Thirty Two Lakhs Fourteen Thousand Five Hundred Forty Only)** as on **31st December 2019** along with further interest at contractual rate of interest together with costs, charges and other monies payable (if any) within 60 days from the date of the said notice. **The details are as follows:**

Sr. No.	Loan Account Number of the Borrower	Name of the Borrower	Names of the Guarantor	Description of the Secured Asset	Amount Demanded	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession
1.	ARGFL/CF/ 016	**Vmaks Builders Private Limited having Registered office address at** Office No. 1, 16th B Cross Road, 3rd Block, Jayananar, East, Bengaluru - 560011	**1. Mr. Ramaswamy Mahesh Babu Residential Address -** No. 18 & 19, Chitritha Nilaya, 1st Cross, 5th Main, Jnannajyothi Nagar, Bengaluru- 560035 **2. Mr. Vasudeva Ramaswamy Residential address:** 20, Manjunath Nilaya,Teachers Layout, Nagarbhavi, Bengaluru- 560072. **3. Mr. Krishnappa Ankaiah Residential address:** No. 15, 5th Cross, Azad Nagar, Chamrajpete South Chamrajpet, Bengaluru – 560018.	As given in the "Description of the Immovable Property" below	Rs. 7,32,14,540/	20-01-2020	11.06.2020

The Borrower having failed to repay the amount due despite the receipt of the said statutory Demand Notice, notice is hereby given to the Borrower and Guarantor mentioned hereinabove in particular and public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties / Secured Asset (as defined under the **Demand Notice dated 20th January 2020**) described herein below in exercise of powers conferred upon him/her under sub-section (4) of section 13 of the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this the **11th day of June of the year 2020.**
The Borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property / the Secured Asset (including Part A and B) and 2 and any dealings with the Property / secured assets will be subject to the charge of **Anand Rathi Global Finance Limited** for an amount of **Rs.7,32,14,540/- (Rupees Seven Crores Thirty Two Lakhs Fourteen Thousand Five Hundred Forty Only)** as on 31st December, 2019 and further interest and other charges thereon with effect from 1st January, 2020. The Borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act in respect of the time available to redeem the secured asset.

	DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES SECURED ASSET THE PROJECT "VMAKS HEIGHTS"
1.	Immovable properties converted for residential use measuring 37¼ th guntas which is the portion of 1Acre 24 Guntas of land in Survey No. 12/1 situated at Kammasandra Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore, the said land has been converted for use of residential purpose as per the order of Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore on dated 28.01.2005, vide No. BDS.ALN(A)SR 256/2004-05 and **bounded on: East :** P. W. D. Road; **West :** Goverment Canal; **North :** Land in Survey No. 12/2; **South :** Land in Survey No. 13/1.
2.	Immovable properties land converted for residential use measuring 12 ¼ Guntas which is the portion of 28 Guntas of land in Survey No. 12/2, Situated at Kammasandra Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore, the Said land has been converted for use of residential purpose as per the order of special Deputy Commissioner Bangalore on dated 16.12.2004, Vide No. BDS:ALN(A)SR 255:2004-05 and **bounded on: East :** Road; **West :** Goverment halla and Anantha Nagar layout; **North :** Meese Muniyappa's land survey No 12/5, SV Saroja and Muniyappa's Land; **South :** Land belonging to Survey No. 12/1A of Narayana Reddy
3.	Immovable properties land converted for residential use measuring 12 Guntas which is the portion of 20 Guntas of land in Survey No. 12/5, Situated at Kammasandra Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore, the said land has been converted for use of residential purpose as per the order of Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore on dated 28.01.2005, Vide No. BDS.ALN(A)SR 256/2004-05 and **bounded on: East :** Property of S. V. Saroja & K. M. Muniyappa; **West :** Land belonging to Muniyappa; **North :** Land belonging to K. M. Muniyappa; **South :** Survey No. 12/2

PART A : LIST OF UNSOLD UNITS IN THE PROJECT "Vmaks Heights"

Sr. No.	Floor No.	Flat No.	Carpet Area (in sq. ft.)	Saleable Area (in sq. ft.)	UDS
1	GF	1	872	1,209	471
2	GF	2	886	1,229	479
3	GF	3	1,358	1,869	728
4	GF	5	755	1,056	411
5	GF	6	1,336	1,836	715
6	GF	7	878	1,233	480
7	GF	8	881	1,221	476
8	GF	9	1,248	1,719	670
9	GF	10	776	1,089	424
10	GF	11	764	1,076	419
11	GF	12	1,148	1,585	617
12	FF	102	886	1,229	479
13	FF	103	1,358	1,869	728
14	FF	109	1,248	1,719	670
15	FF	110	776	1,089	424
16	SF	202	886	1,229	479
17	SF	203	1,358	1,869	728
18	SF	209	1,248	1,719	670
19	TF	302	886	1,229	479
20	TF	309	1,248	1,719	670
21	4TH F	406	1,336	1,836	715
22	5TH F	502	886	1,229	479
23	5TH F	509	1,248	1,719	670
24	5TH F	510	776	1,089	424
25	5TH F	511	764	1,076	419
26	6TH F	606	1,336	1,836	715
27	7TH F	704	764	1,076	419
28	7TH F	705	755	1,056	411
29	7TH F	709	1,248	1,719	670
30	7TH F	710	776	1,089	424
31	7TH F	711	764	1,076	419
32	8TH F	802	886	1,229	479
33	8TH F	803	1,358	1,869	728
34	8TH F	804	764	1,076	419
35	8TH F	805	755	1,056	411
36	8TH F	809	1,248	1,719	670
37	8TH F	812	1,148	1,585	617
38	9TH F	902	886	1,229	479
39	9TH F	903	1,358	1,869	728
40	9TH F	904	764	1,076	419
41	9TH F	905	755	1,056	411
42	9TH F	906	1,336	1,836	715
43	9TH F	908	881	1,221	476
44	9TH F	909	1,248	1,719	670
45	9TH F	910	776	1,089	424
46	9TH F	911	764	1,076	419
		Total	46,376	64,299	25,050

PART B : LIST OF BOOKED AND UNREGISTERED UNITS IN THE PROJECT "VMAKS HEIGHTS" AVAILABLE FOR MORTGAGE

Sr. No.	Floor No.	Flat No.	Carpet Area (in sq. ft.)	Saleable Area (in sq. ft.)	UDS
1	2	201	872	1,209	471
2	4	405	755	1,056	411
3	5	503	1,358	1,869	728
4	9	901	872	1,209	471
5	9	912	1,148	1,585	617
6	1	101	872	1,209	471
7	1	106	1,336	1,836	715
8	1	107	878	1,233	480
9	1	108	881	1,221	476
10	1	111	764	1,076	419
11	1	112	1,148	1,585	617
12	2	204	764	1,076	419
13	2	205	755	1,056	411
14	2	206	1,336	1,836	715
15	2	212	1,148	1,585	617
16	3	301	872	1,209	471
17	3	306	1,336	1,836	715
18	3	307	878	1,233	480
19	3	308	881	1,221	476
20	3	311	764	1,076	419
21	3	312	1,148	1,585	617
22	4	402	886	1,229	479
23	4	403	1,358	1,869	728
24	4	404	764	1,076	419
25	4	412	1,148	1,585	617
26	5	501	872	1,209	471
27	5	507	878	1,233	480
28	5	508	881	1,221	476
29	5	512	1,148	1,585	617
30	6	603	1,358	1,869	728
31	6	604	764	1,076	419
32	6	605	755	1,056	411
33	6	607	878	1,233	480
34	6	608	881	1,221	476
35	6	609	1,248	1,719	670
36	7	703	1,358	1,869	728
37	7	707	878	1,233	480
38	7	708	881	1,221	476
39	7	712	1,148	1,585	617
40	8	801	872	1,209	471
41	9	907	878	1,233	480
		Total	40,600	56,332	21946

Date : 11th June, 2020
Place : Bangalore

Sd/-
Authorized Officer
Anand Rathi Global Finance Limited

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client intends to purchase the property mentioned in the Schedule below from its lawful owner Sri. Rajanna S/o Hanumanthappa R/at Honnenahalli Village, Yalahanka Hobli, Bengaluru North [Addl.] Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District.
I hereby call upon the general public that, if any person has any manner of legal right, title, interest or claim over schedule property, shall submit their objections and claims, if any with complete records in support of their claim within seven day from today to the address mentioned below. Thereafter no claims of whatsoever nature shall be entertained by my client and my client would proceed to purchase the schedule property presuming that the present owner of the schedule property is absolute owner of the same.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of agricultural land measuring **12.04 (12 ¼) guntas** in Sy no. **8/5** situated at **Honnenahalli Village,** Yalahanka Hobli, Bengaluru North [Addl] Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District & bounded on:
East by : Railway lane,
West by : Doddaballapura – Bengaluru Highway Road,
North : Land belongs to Srinivasa Reddy
South : Ajjegowda's Property.

YASHVANTH .K.V, Advocate
No. 13/1, G Block, Sahakarangara, Bengaluru-92. Ph: 9980668759, 9448277118

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E- Tender Notice No. 01/MD.43/SPL LAB INVESTIGATIONS/CH/UBL/20-21
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-tenders for the following work :

Name of Work	Approx. Value
Expression of Interest (EOI) from all the willing diagnostic centers/hospitals for entering into tie up for providing services of Clinical Investigations including Pathological, Bio-Chemical,Special Lab Investigation etc., to Railway beneficiaries/patients of Central Hospital, South' Western Railway, Gadag Road, Hubballi, as per CGHS NABL 2014 Bengaluru Rates through MOU(Memorandum of Understanding).	Rs. 44,00,000/-

Last date for submission of documents: Up to 15:00 hrs. of 17.07.2020
For details log on: www.swr.indianrailways.gov.in
Medical Director
Central Hospital, Hubballi
PUB/69/AAV/PRB/SWR/2020-21

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Corrigendum - V to E-Tender Notice No: 238-H-M-D-LOCO-ADVT Dated : 25.02.2020
Opening date of above mentioned tender notice has been postponed to 31.08.2020 and pre-bid meeting has been postponed to 20.08.2020. Changes in the above tender notice are hereby notified through this Corrigendum-V for all concerned advertisers and stakeholders. The remaining conditions of earlier NIT will remain same.
For details log on:www.ireps.gov.in
Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer
Diesel, Hubballi
PUB/70/AAV/PRB/SWR/2020-21

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E- Tender Notice No. MYS-COMML-12-2020 Dated: 09.06.2020
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-tenders for the following work :

Name of Work	Approx. Value
Contract for manning of Cloak Room at Mysuru Railway Station for a period of three years.	Rs. 8,93,916/-

Last date for submission of bids: Up to 15:00 hrs. of 08.07.2020
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Mysuru
PUB/71/AAV/PRB/SWR/2020-21

PUBLIC NOTICE

This to notify the general public that my client Jyothi Kalgundy Siddappa W/o H.S.Mohan Kumar, aged about 37 years, R/at LR 3, 10th main, Ganesh block, near S.G. International School, Nandini Layout, Bengaluru 96, has lost the original registered sale deed dated 30/06/1990, bearing document No.479/90/91, Book No.1 volume No.1539, registered at Nelamangala sub register office pertaining to property bearing site No.385, katha No.238/385, situated at Adarashnagar layout Arishinkunte village, Kasaba Hobali Nelamangala Taluk, Bengaluru rural district, measuring east to west 9 meter north to south 12 meter totally 108 sq meter which was handed over by her father by named K.K. Siddappa s/o late Kengalappa at the time of execution of gift deed dated 10/08/2011 in favour of my client, my client father had previously purchased schedule property from his vendor on 30/6/1990. Regarding the loss of said document, my client has already lodged a complaint on 9/06/2020 through online bearing lost report No.073513/2020, if anybody find the said sale deed please handover to my client and please note that if anybody enters make illegal acts on the said document that my client is not responsible for the same and if anybody have any claims or litigations on the said sale deed, same to be brought to the knowledge of my client or me within 7 days from this said notice.

B.K Ravi Kumar,
Shree Nandi Law Associates
No.582/19, 5th main Road, Near Holy child School, Manasa Layout, Kengeri Satellite Town, Bangalore-60 M.No. 7829757666

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

COVID-19

04 BENGALURU MONDAY 15.06.2020

TRACKING COVID-19

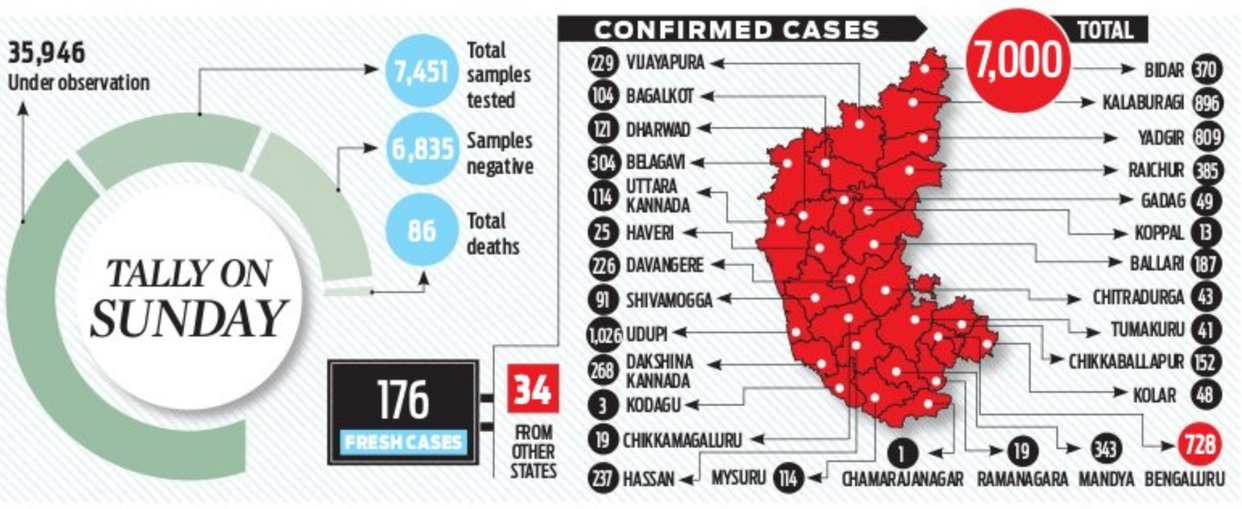
As many as 24 containment zones were added in Bengaluru on Sunday, some of them are Sampangiram Nagar, Vasanth Nagar, Bharti Nagar, Jayachamrajendra Nagar, Shivanagar, Ulsoor, Lingarajpuram, Marapanna Palya

312 NEW RECOVERIES

3,955 TOTAL RECOVERED

HELPLINES
080-46848600
080-66692000

104 Arogya Sahayavani will function too



AGAINST ALL ODDS, KARNATAKA SHINES

The state has fought the war against Covid-19, the invisible enemy, quite effectively, drawing appreciation from the Union government

Karnataka ranks tenth in states with the highest number of Covid-19 positive cases with 7,000, of which 2,956 are active cases, and 86 deaths, as on June 14. However, the state with a population of 6.5 crore has handled the situation by far better than many other states in the country to contain the spread and keep the numbers down. Neighbouring Maharashtra leads the Covid-19 tally with 1,04,568 cases, of which 51,379 are active cases and 3,830 deaths. Early understanding of the problem and measures put in place helped Karnataka contain the pandemic and win laurels. Joint Secretary, Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Lav Agarwal, openly appreciated Karnataka's Corona war rooms and technology used to provide information and statistics to citizens, the media and experts. The state has two Covid-19 war rooms -- the state war room and the BBMP war room — which collate data on cases, areas, patients' age, compounded growth rate, tests per million, cases per million, transmission type, deaths per million, positivity rate, active and former containment zones, quarantined numbers, etc. *The New Indian Express* takes a look at teams at various levels who played a stellar role in keeping figures down to impressively contain the spread.

DR C N ASHWATH NARAYAN
Deputy Chief Minister

Coupling his professional experience with best use of technology, Dr CN Ashwath Narayan pushed for telemedicine in Karnataka in the backdrop of Covid-19. From holding talks with industries, Nasscom, investors and IT-BT giants, he struck a balance between precaution and progress throughout the crisis. With video conferences, including one with the American Consul, he engaged with potential investors in the state in a post-Covid era.

DR K SUDHAKAR
Medical Education Minister

From responding to the opposition's questions over Covid-19 in the Assembly to keeping track of every single Covid testing lab in the State, Dr K Sudhakar has been hands-on in handling Covid. Despite healthcare not being under his ministry directly, he was made in-charge of operations to contain the virus. The first of Karnataka ministers to push for TTT — Trace, Test and Treat formula, he has been at the forefront of ensuring virtual training for frontline workers, including doctors and nurses on handling Covid. Sudhakar cut across party and state lines to connect with Kerala Health Minister Shailaja to exchange best practices in containing the virus.

B S YEDIYURAPPA, CHIEF MINISTER

At 78, BS Yediyurappa has been at the forefront of the battle against Covid-19. He was one of the first few chief ministers to take precautionary measures against the virus spread. On March 13, almost two weeks before the Union government ordered a lockdown, Yediyurappa had decided to announce a partial lockdown in high-risk districts. This was later extended to the entire state effectively slowing down the infection rates. Even as he steered his team of ministers and bureaucrats, Yediyurappa did not forget the frontline workers and announced insurance policies for policemen and Asha workers — who had been excluded in the Union government's Covid insurance scheme. On one side, he went on city tours to interact with residents and assess the economic impact of the lockdown and on the other, announced an economic relief package of over Rs 2000 crore to help struggling farmers and labourers. After the initial controversy, Yediyurappa decided to pay for tickets of migrants returning on Shramik Express trains and KSRTC buses. He was also one of the first CMs to push for resuming economic activities to salvage revenues. He also ensured social harmony was not disrupted with his stern warning against communalising Covid.

EXEMPLARY DISTRICTS

CHAMARAJANAGAR
1 CASE, NO DEATHS

Strict enforcement kept numbers almost zero

Chamarajanagar has turned into a role model district in Karnataka for remaining a green zone with just one positive case. Incidentally, the first and the only case is of a medical student from Mumbai who had come with his mother to his uncle's house in Hanur. The district conducted more than 2,700 tests, all of which proved negative. As the backward district is situated between red zones in Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Mysuru, the district administration took stringent measures to seal interstate, inter-district and inter taluk borders, besides enforcing strict lockdown norms to prevent the infection spread. They closed wildlife sanctuaries and places of worship. Village heads helped in fighting the virus effectively.

KODAGU
3 CASES, NO DEATHS

People's support helped contain cases

Immense support from residents district and relevant district-level decisions helped Kodagu fight Covid efficiently, officials said. "The first major decision that helped us contain the pandemic was when we traced the route map of the first P-15 case and identified primary contacts within 24 hours. Timely orders from the DC and SP and team work too helped. Next important decision was when we closed borders with Kerala and further, local intelligence helped us trace inter-district and inter-state travellers. After the lockdown was relaxed, we ensured that inter-state travellers were shifted to institutional quarantine from the checkpost," said Ananya Vasudev, in-charge official of NDRF. Kodagu DC Annies K Joy said that public support helped contain the disease.

UDUPI
1,005 CASES, NO DEATH

Impressive administration despite high numbers

Udupi has seen 1,005 positive cases and leads the districts with the highest tally in the state. But so far, it has kept its mortality to just one. The administration of district, which has seen a heavy influx from Maharashtra, Telangana, the Gulf and UAE, has been proactive in identifying, tracking, and quarantining the returnees. They tested vulnerable travellers on priority and identified and treated cases early. DC G Jagadeesha ensured proper communication with the public through short videos on awareness. Cases were managed in designated hospitals based on clinical categories. Asymptomatic patients were moved to government hospitals, but those who were critical were treated at Dr TMA Pai Hospital, which is attached to Manipal Academy of Higher Education.

MYSURU
114 CASES, NO DEATHS

The district had zero cases at one point

Mysuru's district administration was the first to bring down active cases count to zero (now 20) during the first wave of Covid and has managed to keep the mortality at zero. Mysuru city managed to be one up on the disease despite the presence of multiple clusters — including the mysterious Nanjangud pharma case. The timely contact-tracing by surveillance teams led by district surveillance officer Dr T Shivaprasad, coupled with containment measures, acted as the first line of defence. The health team led by DHO Venkatesh and District Surgeon H R Rajeshwari offered top-notch treatment. The captain of the ship, DC Abhiram G Sankar, led the battle by setting up a Covid-designated hospital from scratch. The role of Police Commissioner Dr Chandragupta and SP C B Ryshyanth was commendable.

KOPPAL
13 CASES, NO DEATHS

Team work, planning behind success

Though people and officials took time to 'realise' the enormity of the pandemic in January-February, they got into the act as soon as the nationwide lockdown was announced in March-end. In fact, district, police, health and urban local body officials put in a lot of effort to preempt possibilities of an outbreak. The district administration also took up a vast awareness campaign in rural areas. An official said that Deputy Commissioner P Sunilkumar had a grasp on the imminent fallout of the pandemic. He was a step ahead in taking precautionary measures, such as identifying many government buildings for quarantine centres.

THE STARS AMONG OFFICIALS

JAWAID AKHTAR
Additional Chief Secretary, Health And Family Welfare Department

Initially, when the state started its war against Covid-19, there was no expert committee to study the virus strain here. But Jawaid Akhtar decided to form a technical expert committee of epidemiologists to evolve measures to contain the virus. Akhtar made a bold move of procuring Personal Protection Equipment (PPEs) from China. Starting with zero PPEs to bringing in four lakh PPEs, it was a significant step. He also initiated training programmes in association with the Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences for doctors, nurses and other staff on how to handle Covid cases. Akhtar also established tele-ICU and alarm tests, involving both public and private sectors.

PANKAJ KUMAR PANDEY
Commissioner, Health And Family Welfare Department

As the state health commissioner, Pankaj Kumar Pandey is one of the officials leading Karnataka's fight against Covid-19. Pandey and his team ensured that the Covid containment measures started from January 30 itself. From screening of international passengers to stamping passengers for home quarantine and then bringing in the new quarantine rules of sending the home quarantined people to mass quarantine if they violated the rules, his directions were invaluable. His team also extended screening from the airport to other public places like the High Court, Vidhan Soudha, Vikas Soudha and MS Building.

MUNISH MOUDGIL
Nodal Officer, Incharge Of State War Room

Munish Moudgil has left no stone unturned in providing day-to-day analysis of all districts from the state war room. He has even developed many apps to check on people with symptoms and those under home quarantine. His analyses have helped in identifying hot spots, clusters and risk areas using GIS analysis. Moudgil and his team finds out Moudgil and his team can find out whether a person has visited the fever clinic or not. If not, the health department is put on duty to get the person to do the tests. Similarly, the health of migrant labourers is tracked through apps. Another app keeps track of healthy people, primary and secondary contacts.

B H ANIL KUMAR
Commissioner, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike

The BBMP, which often recieves flak, has surprisingly done well during the Covid crisis. B H Anil Kumar, BBMP Commissioner, has been very active throughout and has ensured that BBMP officials are carrying out their duties. He formed quick response teams in all zones which are in charge of surveillance and quarantining of primary and secondary contacts. He and his officers have identified hotels, hostels and guest rooms as quarantine centres. He has taken the lead in creating containment zones and putting measures in place effectively. He has conducted many spot inspections to check the situation on the ground and advises officers on taking effective measures.

ABHIRAM G SANKAR
Deputy Commissioner, Mysuru

Mysuru DC Abhiram G Sankar is leading the Covid fight by example. From timely contract tracing to fighting fake news, his leadership has helped Mysuru move from top of the chart to the bottom. Abhiram successfully fought the first wave of the pandemic by bringing down 94 active cases to zero with zero mortality, a recognition which it holds till date. The DC has been instrumental in setting up a Covid-designated hospital from the scratch and handling of the mysterious Nanjangud pharma cluster case effectively. Endorsed even by his seniors, this 2011-batch IAS officer has tactfully fought fake news mills through his social media connect by providing first-hand information.

USING TECH TO TACKLE THE VIRUS

COVID-19 WEBSITE

The Covid website — www.covid19.karnataka.gov.in — is a one-stop shop for all information, including media bulletins, software and apps. Addresses of inter-state arrivals without revealing their names and personal details are also put up on the site.

APTHAMITRA HELPLINE

The Apthamitra helpline with a toll-free number 14410 and the app were launched to help identify people with ILI, SARI and Covid-like symptoms. It also intends to identify low-risk people having some symptoms similar to Covid and provide them telemedicine support.

CONTACT TRACING & DASOHA 2020 APPS

The Contact Tracing app has a database of primary and secondary contacts of Covid-positive patients. The DASOHA 2020 app, along with the Hunger Helpline 155214, were launched to provide food to migrant workers, unorganised sector labourers and others.

SEVA SINDHU APP

The Seva Sindhu app deals with the exodus and influx of migrant labourers, and also helps people register themselves for travelling in or out of Karnataka. It now also allows applicants to register themselves for seeking one-time financial relief meant for barbers, washermen, auto and cab drivers, powerloom and handloom workers, etc.

GEOSPATIAL MAP

The geospatial map, from the Karnataka State Remote Sensing Applications Centre, provides information on containment zones, hotposts, patient location, primary and secondary contacts, testing and collection centres, isolation centres, medical colleges, hospitals and fever clinics.

– K SHIVA KUMAR, CHETANA BELAGERE, ANUSHA RAVI, PRAJNA GR, KARTHIK KK, SHREEPADA AYACHIT, RANJANI MADHAVAN, IFFATH FATHIMA

State hits 7K-mark as toll rises to 86

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

KARNATAKA hit the 7,000-mark with 176 new coronavirus cases and the toll reached 86 with five more deaths on Sunday. The state now has 2,956 active cases.

Three of the deceased were from Bengaluru, one was from Dakshina Kannada and another from Bidar.

A 57-year-old woman from Bengaluru, suffering from Severe Acute Respiratory Illness, fever, cough, diabetes and hypertension, was admitted on June 11 and died the next day.

A 50-year-old man, who had returned from Tamil Nadu with fever, was admitted in Bengaluru on June 10 and died three days later.

Another 60-year-old woman, who was diagnosed with SARI, breathlessness, wheezing, hypertension and diabetes, was admitted on June 9 and died two days later. A 24-year-old man, who had returned to Dakshina Kannada from Maharashtra with a chronic kidney disease and hypertension, was admitted to a private hospital on June 12 and died the same day.

A 76-year-old man from Bidar, who was at his residence in Hyderabad, had hypertension and died on June 6. He tested positive for Covid-19 later.

Bengaluru Urban saw the highest number of 42 cases on Sunday. All 22 patients in Yadgir, 18 out of 21 in Udupi, 14 out of 20 in Bidar, seven out of 13 in Kalaburagi, five out of six in Uttara Kannada, four of five in Mandya and three out of five patients in Bagalkot were Maharashtra returnees.

Seven out of 10 patients in Dharwad were contacts of one patient, three out of five in Dakshina Kannada were travellers from UAE. Ballari saw eight cases, Kolar seven, Ramanagara three, and Raichur and Shivamogga two each. In all, 312 people were discharged taking the total to 3,955.

Only 25% ILI cases being tested, not a good sign: Experts

IFFATH FATHIMA @Bengaluru

WITH the number of Influenza Like Illness (ILI) cases increasing and the state witnessing deaths, the initial ILI analysis done through surveys revealed that only 25% of such cases have been tested in the State. This isn't a good indicator, say experts.

Dr Giridhar Babu, a member of the Covid expert committee, said, "We need to ramp up testing. Focus should be on testing each one and saving them as ILI cases are increasing. The state percentage of ILI tests done is at 25% and that isn't a good indicator. The data shows that 20,834 are ILI cases in the elderly, and the tests need to be done on all of them as they are at a higher risk."

A conductors screens passengers in Bengaluru on Sunday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

While the overall tests positivity rate stands at 0.3%, Dr Babu added that if more tests were conducted, more cases would have come to the fore, which would have helped. "Only Bengaluru Urban district shows 2.3% test positivity rate and Bagalkot 1.0%. This apart, all the other districts have a low test positivity rate. It should have actually been 1-2.5% in each district," he said.

Dr Ravindra Mehta M, Senior Consultant and HOD, Pulmonology and Interventional Pulmonology, Apollo Speciality, Jayanagar, said, "We need to test more ILI cases. The SARI cases are tested as they get severe and people come to the hospital. But with ILI, people confused it with normal flu."

The analysis also shows that of the total positive cases, 129 are related to ILI, what is worrying is that 69 cases are from Bengaluru Urban alone.

ILI ANALYSIS

- Total Household survey : **16,882,789**
- Surveyed households : **15,026,322**
- Follow up: **6,262,062**
- Fever cold and flu symptoms: **1,75,269**
- Elderly ILI : **20,834**
- Percentage of people with ILI cold, fever and flu symptoms : **1.04%**
- Total ILI tests : **44,236**
- Covid positive on ILI: **124**
- Test positivity rate: **0.3%**
- Percentage of ILI tested: **25%**

The death of J Anbazhagan has opened the doors for others in the DMK. A section of the party, however, is not keen to elevate any 'outsider' to the post of secretary of its Chennai West district unit, left vacant by Anbazhagan.

Three central Kerala districts on verge of community spread

Thrissur, Palakkad and Malappuram account for over half of the local transmission cases in state

Police interact with locals, keeping safety measures in mind, in Tripunithura | A SANESH

DHINESH KALLUNGAL @ Thrissur

THOUGH the authorities insist that Kerala has so far been able to stave off community transmission of Covid-19, at least a few pockets in three neighbouring districts situated in central and northern Kerala are on the verge of community spread, if the latest cases are any indication. Thrissur, Palakkad and Malappuram districts together account for over half of the local transmission cases in the state during the third wave of Covid. As many as 220 people were infected through local contacts from May 4 to June 14 after the state allowed the NRKs (non-resident Keralites) to return.

Of the 220 cases, the three districts -- Thrissur 43, Palakkad 39 and Malappuram 33 -- together account for 115 cases. Further, of the total 36 locally transmitted cases among the health workers, 19 are from these three districts, the break-up being Thrissur-9, Palakkad-7 and Malappuram-3. Many pockets in these three districts are on the verge of community spread. However, the health authorities maintain that when compared to the department's projected cases, these districts are still below the projected level.

For instance, around 165 out of the total 499 confirmed cases in the state till May 3 got the virus through local contact. But during the third phase, of the total 1,962 cases which tested positive, only 220 cases were locally transmitted. If the local transmission rate till May 3 was around 33 per cent, it is about 11 per cent in the third phase. Amar Fettle, state nodal officer for H1N1 and Covid, said it is true that the rise in the number of cases among health workers and the local transmission cases has raised eyebrows. Though the department had anticipated this, the public is yet to rise to the occasion considering the gravity of the incidence.

> in the wake of the unlocking measures, only around 30 per cent of people in the state are really complying with the standard health measures suggested by the government
>
> Health dept official

A senior health official said in the wake of the unlocking measures, only around 30 per cent of people in the state are really complying with the standard health measures suggested by the government. Anything that compromises social distancing and wearing face mask can prove disastrous. Further, only less than 20 per cent of the registered NRKs have arrived in the state so far. It means people will have to take things seriously.

COVID WATCH

MLA's gunman dies of virus

Anantapur: A gunman of Dharmavaram MLA Kethireddy Venkatarami Reddy died of COVID-19 two days ago. Initially it was reported that he died of cardiac arrest, but the MLA on Sunday confirmed that he died of COVID-19.

Undertrial tests positive

Tirupati: An undertrial prisoner brought to the Tirupati sub-jail has tested positive for Covid-19. On Saturday night, he was admitted to SVR Ruia Hospital. Five persons who came in contact with him were shifted to the jail's quarantine ward.

Andhra sees highest spike

Vijayawada: There was a surge in the number of Covid-19 cases in Andhra Pradesh on Sunday as the tally crossed the 6,000-mark. As many as 294 new cases, the highest single day spike, were registered. Two more deaths were reported.

AP-K'taka buses to resume service

Vijayawada: The Andhra Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation will resume its services to Karnataka from Wednesday. Advanced bookings can be made through the corporation's website, www.apsrtconline.in, from Monday.

No space for asymptomatic cases in hosps

DILEEP V KUMAR @T'Puram

THE state has once again made amends to its strategy of treating Covid19 patients. In the latest, it has been decided to admit confirmed cases who are asymptomatic and those with mild symptoms to COVID First-Line Treatment Centers (CFLTC) and not to dedicated COVID Hospitals (CH). According to the health department, this shall be implemented with retrospective effect (that means those who are asymptomatic and with mild symptoms admitted to CH will be referred back to CFLTC).

The decision is said to have taken on the basis of spike in positive cases and deaths. A list of 29 CFLTCs spreading across various parts of the state released by the health department has been linked to 29 CH and it together had a bed strength of 2,705. \"Cases are spiking. So is death. Expert care should be provided to those with comorbidities. Of the 19 Covid19 deaths, except one, all others had comorbidity present.

As there are projections that the deaths will show an upward trend, a change in strategy is needed. It was based on such an assessment that it was decided to shift asymptomatic positive cases and confirmed cases with mild symptoms to CFLTCs\" said an officer of the health department. According to the officer, based on the decision asymptomatic Covid19 patients admitted in dedicated CH will now get referred back to CFLTC.

As per an advisory prepared in this regard by health principal secretary Rajan Khobragade it has been stated that all CFLTC in a district will be linked to the designated CH in the district. Also, the doctors and paramedical staffs functioning at the CHs should act as a 'hub' for providing technical guidance to the team at CFLTCs. \"A team of doctors and paramedical staff (preferably two from internal medicine and two from paediatrics) are present in all CHs. Their service shall be made available round the clock.

IN SEARCH OF SILVER LINING

Migrant workers walk till Chennai Railway Station to board a special train to Bihar on Sunday | EXPRESS

Mumbai's Udupi hotel staffers want to stay home, find local jobs

VINCENT D'SOUZA @Mangaluru

THOUSANDS of employees of Mumbai's famous Udupi hotels, who have returned to their hometowns in Udupi and Dakshina Kannada districts, are looking at an uncertain future. With no surety of when restaurants in Mumbai will be fully functional, the hotel employees are worried for their livelihood and future of their school and college going children.

About 15,000 people have returned to Udupi and DK districts from Maharashtra and a significant number of them were employed in Udupi hotels, which is a household name in Mumbai. After the lockdown was relaxed a few days ago, some restaurants have reopened only for take-away services and are functioning with limited staff.

Given the way the Covid-19 crisis is panning out in Mumbai and other parts of Maharashtra, many have decided not to return and instead find a job in their hometowns in Karnataka or somewhere else within the state. People whose children are studying in Mumbai are in a fix. Vikas Salian from Kundapur, who have two sons studying in a Mumbai school, said due he has not been able to decide on whether to return to Mumbai or stay back in Kundapur in the context of his kids' education.

The trend of people from DK and Udupi migrating to Mumbai to set up Udupi hotels and work in it as cooks and waiters started during late 1940s. The steaming idlis, soft vadas, dosa and uthappam of Udup have not only become a hit among Mumbaikars but it also gave the local eateries a run for their money.

Chandrashekar Poojary who migrated to Mumbai 15 years ago to set up Sri Krishna Hotel serving Udupi cuisine, said there are over 10,000 Udupi hotels in Mumbai out of which about 40 per cent of them are run by natives of Mangaluru. "Pizza and burger joints have dealt a severe blow to Udupi hotels since more than a decade, forcing many to venture into other businesses. Now, the lockdown has further affected its existence." He said about 10-15 per cent of hotel employees are from Karnataka, mostly from the coastal region.

Sushant could hold his own in most films

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

SUSHANT Singh Rajput would quickly bounce back with the celebrated M S Dhoni biopic. Directed by Neeraj Pandey, this was perhaps his most definitive performance, a box-office winner that brought out the lesser-known indecisions of an ace cricketer.

Sushant could hold his own in most films. Twee and old world, the disaster epic *Kedarnath* was bogged down by convention; still, the actor took great and obvious pains lugging Sara Ali Khan up and down a mountain. In *Sonchiriya*, he was stoutly reliable as a dacoit losing his faith in his tribe. He was efficient in *Chhichhore* too, running through as many tics and jitters as an old man as he did as a college fresher.

At the trailer launch of *Kedarnath* in 2018, Sushant was asked about faith. "There are different ways to investigate the truth," said the actor known for both quoting Shiv mantras and Carl Sagan. "One is science.... the other is faith." To whichever world we have lost him to now, our love shall no doubt reach unbound.

EXPRESS READ

5-yr-old dies as hot sambar falls on him

Hyderabad: A 5-year-old boy died after hot sambar fell on him at Hayathnagar. The victim succumbed to his injuries in the early hours of Sunday, the police said. On Wednesday, the boy's family went to attend a house warming ceremony. The child's parents were serving lunch to the guests. When he grabbed a vessel filled with hot sambar and pulled on it, the burning liquid fell all over his body. He was immediately rushed to a hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries on Sunday. ENS

TN reports 38 deaths

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Vijayawada

TAMIL Nadu reported 38 Covid deaths on Sunday, the highest ever on a day. The Statewide death toll now stands at 435, with 128 of them (29.4 per cent) being reported during the past five days.

There were a whopping 1,974 fresh cases in the State, taking the tally to 44,661, while Chennai recorded 1,415 cases, taking its total to 30,444.

Doctors form groups to donate blood

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

DR Nandish Kumar S, from the Community Medicine Department at the hospital, said, "We got to know that we had blood shortage in hospital, with only six bags left. Vani Vilas Hospital too, which requires blood for cases like anaemia during pregnancy or maternal and child health cases, was facing a shortage. Many other hospitals are also facing severe shortage of blood as blood donation camps are not being held. So, we formed groups and went ahead with the donation. We

are glad that the blood bank has some stock now."

Dr Dayanand Sagar, president of the Karnataka Resident Doctors' Association said, "Patients with thalassemia, haemophilia, chronic illnesses, infections like dengue or even the trauma centre, need a lot of blood. When we realised there is a shortage, we thought of having a blood donation camp. But we decided against it due to the possibility of crowding and instead, we donated blood ourselves."

"Doctors on Covid-19 duty are not allowed to donate blood. But after completing their turn, they too are coming forward now. All the resident doctors are participating and more than 20 doctors have donated blood in the past week," he added.

SAVE THE WILD

'Sharavathi project spells doom for macaques'

MEERA BHARDWAJ @ Bengaluru

THE state government's ambitious hydro-electric project – the 2,000 MW Sharavathi Pumped Storage Project -- spells doom for the very survival of Lion-tailed macaques (LTM), an endangered species which is found only in the Western Ghats. Scientists say that the project area falls right in the area where 32 groups of macaques live and breed on canopies of trees. Presently, the project has received clearance for survey works for project feasibility from the State and the Central wildlife boards.

Scientists warn of enormous impact of the project and possible extinction of local groups of LTM which inhabit the Sharavathi Valley and lower slopes. The Valley is considered the last refuge for LTM. Down Talaguppa, there is very little human presence and the LTM has survived only due to this. Now, this area is part of a sanctuary that was notified only last year. So any disturbance that is caused – even a survey may lead to its disappearance in the area. Today, the home of this arboreal species is restricted to very small, rainforest pockets of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

Prof Mewa Singh, India's foremost primatologist and behavioural ecologist, is an internationally acclaimed specialist on LTM and has spent four decades on its study. Prof Mewa Singh says, "The areas in the Sharavathi Valley and the lower slopes are far more valuable for wildlife including arboreal than the upper regions. As the damage of such hydro-electric projects is usually in the Valley and at the lower slopes, it is disproportionate to the total area."

In the Sharavathy Valley region, 27 of 32 LTM groups, 45 of 47 bonnet macaque groups and 139 of 151 groups of Hanuman Langurs are found and below 600m and none above 700m. "So, a 100 hectare area or more in the Valley or at the lower slope is much more valuable for wildlife than the 100 hectares at upper altitudes. In fact, the

overall impact of the project will be huge and the claim that the project needs just 150 hectares is highly misleading in terms of ecological significance," Prof Mewa Singh says.

A joint scientific study by H N Kumara and Prof Mewa Singh reveals that due to canopy contiguity and the availability of fruit-bearing trees throughout the year, the rainforests of Western Ghats are rich in arboreal fauna. Out of four species, the LTM and Nilgiri langurs are found only in the Western Ghats.

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH, CHANDIGARH

ADMISSION NOTICE NO: 08/2020

Online applications are invited for admission to **B.Sc. Paramedical & Bachelor of Public Health (BPH)** courses for the academic session 2020 through Computer Based Test (CBT) to be held at different cities. The Dates for submission of online applications are from **15.06.2020 to 10.07.2020**. The entrance examination for Bachelor of Public Health (BPH) & B.Sc. (Medical Animation & Audio Visual Creation) will be held on 28.07.2020 (Tuesday) and B.Sc. Paramedical courses on 06.08.2020 (Thursday) respectively. For eligibility criteria, number of seats and other details, applicants are advised to read the prospectus and instructions given there in carefully before starting online registration and filling of application form. The information brochure/prospectus of admission is available on Institute's website i.e. **www.pgimer.edu.in**. The candidates are requested to visit the PGIMER website regularly for all subsequent changes/updation for entrance examination/communications/addendum/corrigendum.

REGISTRAR

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

Office of the Executive Engineer, (South East-2) Division, 2nd Floor, 35th Cross, 11th Main, 4th T Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore - 560 041.

IFT No.: BWSSB/EE(SE-2)/PB/665/2020-21 Date : 10-06-2020

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER

(Through e-Procurement Portal Only)

BWSSB invites Itemwar tender from registered agencies for the work of **"Providing, Supply, Fixing and Commissioning of 150 mm dia EMI Meter and allied works to facilitate the Drain Work of BMRCL adjacent to the compound Wall of Sagar Hospital at Thilaknagar coming under 4th T Block Service Station of AEE(SW-4) Sub Division."**

Amount put to tender: **Rs. 2,48,591/-** EMD: **Rs. 6,215/-**

Last date and time for Receipt of tender will be on **25-06-2020 upto 4.00 p.m.** and the Date of Opening of Tender will be on **29-06-2020 after 4.30 p.m.** The details regarding participation for this tender can be obtained by logging on to : **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-

Executive Engineer, (South East-2)

ODISHA JOINT ENTRANCE EXAMINATION - 2020

(OJEE - 2020)

No: OJEE/162 DATE: 14.06.2020

NOTICE

(Extension of the last date of online application and fee payment for Special OJEE for B.TECH)

In view of the current pandemic situation of **COVID -19**, it is hereby announced that the last date for online submission of application forms for special OJEE for B.TECH is extended as mentioned below.

Application form	Special OJEE for B.TECH. (Application F)
Last date for submission of online application forms	30-06-2020
Last date for online fee payment	05-07-2020

The detailed schedule regarding dates of Examination and dates for downloading of Admit Cards etc. will be notified in due course of time, after assessment of the situation after **30.06.2020.**

Sd/-

CHAIRMAN, OJEE, ODISHA

aavin THE SALEM DISTRICT CO-OP., MILK PRODUCERS' UNION LTD., E.D. 912

SITHANUR (POST), THALAVAIPATTY,SALEM – 636 302 Phone No. 7373704800, 7373704802 E.mail-aavinslm@gmail.com

TENDER NOTICE

Invited sealed tenders for vehicles by 2 cover system for transportation of milk from the rural villages to Salem FBD, BMC's and Chilling Center Attur to operate 10 lorries / Mini Lorries, 31Mini autos and 10 taxi /Diesel for Milk procurement Team Office/ Input route works for the period of 2020 - 2023 (3 Years). The cost of tender form is Rs.200/-.

a) EMD for 7.0 ton and above hired lorries - Rs.15,000/-
b) EMD for 2.0 ton to 6.0 ton hired lorries - Rs.10,000/-
c) EMD for 0.5 ton to 1.5 ton hired lorries,
d) (Mini lorries/Autos/Car/ (Diesel) - Rs.3,000/-

The tender form will be issued from the date of issue of advertisement to **21.07.2020** up to **3.00** p.m. on all working days. The EMD must be paid only as DD in favor of **"GENERAL MANAGER, SDCMPU Ltd"** payable at Salem and the duly filled tender forms should be submitted on or before **22.07.2020** by **02.00** PM. The opening of the tender forms will be on **22.07.2020** the same day itself by **02.30** p.m. Tender forms can also be down loaded from **"www.tenders.tn.gov.in"** on free of cost. All other details are enclosed with the tender form.

DIPR/ 2237 /TENDER/2020 GENERAL MANAGER

EDITORIAL

"The purposeful pursuit of national interest in shifting global dynamics may not be easy, but it must be done

Subrahmanyam Jaishankar

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

OPPORTUNISTIC OLI PUTS INDIA'S NEPAL POLICY UNDER TEST

In what could only be described as opportunism, Nepal's Parliament approved a bill that unilaterally sought to annex three disputed regions in Uttarakhand. Nepal Prime Minister K P Oli redid cartography to seize three disputed territories—Kalapani, Lipu Lekh and Limpiyadhura—to divert attention from the power struggle within his Nepal Communist Party, as former PM Pushpa Kamal Dahal, better known as Prachanda, is pulling out all the stops to stage an internal coup. Prachanda has the party under his thumb while Oli runs the government. But the complete mismanagement of both the economy and the coronavirus outbreak has made the government unpopular despite having a clear mandate. Also, the spiralling youth protests and Oli's poor health gave Prachanda enough opportunity to rock the boat. With bigger brother China playing peacemaker, Oli parried the attack, whipping up ultra-nationalistic sentiments to contain the national rage. And Defence Minister Rajnath Singh opening a new road to Mansarovar via Lipu Lekh gave the Nepal PM the fig leaf he was waiting for. His map-making exercise is widely seen as a China-led poke, which itself is locked in a stand-off with India on the Ladakh border. But such theatrics do not always ensure political stability. Prachanda is already complaining that his idea of creating an all-party panel to fight Covid-19 has not been not taken seriously.

That said, India has added another adversary on its border, raising questions over its foreign policy's efficacy. The transnational oil pipeline it built for Nepal and its humanitarian assistance during Covid apparently counted for nothing when it sought to encash its IOUs. The foreign office bristled, saying such artificial expansion of territory was not sustainable. But within the BJP, there has been some loud thinking on how it went wrong. Its outspoken MP Subramanian Swamy tweeted, "How can Nepal think of asking for Indian territory? What has hurt their sentiments so much that they want to break with India? Is it not our failure? Need RESET in foreign policy too." As for Oli, he is punching way above his weight. He ought to remember that poking the elephant in the eye can lead to a stampede with unforeseen consequences.

PREVENTING PREDATORY PRICING IN FARMING

The year was 2017. Chained and handcuffed, 10 chilli farmers from Khammam in Telangana were taken to the district court. They were accused of vandalising the market yard after their demands for a remunerative price for their produce went unheard. Chillies that sold for ₹14,000 a quintal the previous year were selling now for a mere ₹2,000. The incident sparked outrage for a while, and then died down. Cut to 2020, the Centre has passed multiple ordinances to reform agriculture that, among other things, makes the Agricultural Produce Marketing Committees (APMC) redundant. If a farmer is not happy with the price being offered at an APMC, he can sell his produce to any buyer in any part of India willing to pay more. Proponents have lauded the move as a major step towards creating 'one nation one market'.

The APMC system was riddled with problems. Rigged by middlemen and local politicians, small and marginal farmers often got a raw deal. An upheaval of the system was in order. However, activists and experts feel that problems of the farmers have not been eliminated, but merely replaced. Instead of struggling with middlemen, now they have to trade with big corporates. While it's true that a farmer can sell to those who pay better, it's equally plausible that companies would want to buy from farmers willing to sell cheap. As a result, there is fear that small and marginal farmers will lose big time to large-scale growers. In the US, for instance, an analysis by the National Public Radio shows that retail giant Walmart sources only 11% of fresh foods locally. The rest comes from farmers in other states selling at cheaper rates. Local sourcing has now become a 'charitable' initiative just to support local farmers. While Walmart has promised to source 25% of goods locally in India, not every corporate would bother doing the same. The result could be a price war. For a nation struggling to prevent predatory pricing in the telecom sector, doing the same for agriculture would be next to impossible. As of now, the dismantling of APMCs seems to be a good initiative for agriculture, but not for farmers.

The enhancement of relations to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership is not just semantic. It needs to be understood within the overall context of shifts shaping the Indo-Pacific

INDO-AUSTRALIA SUMMIT: CONSOLIDATING TIES IN CONFUSING TIMES

SHANKARI SUNDARARAMAN

Professor at School of International Studies, JNU, New Delhi

ASIAN AXIS

AMIT BANDRE

India and Australia held their first-ever virtual summit on 4 June 2020. The restrictions placed on travel due to the pandemic pushed the two countries to consider meeting virtually to advance their bilateral ties, even as meetings scheduled to take place earlier were cancelled. The first major outcome of the summit was the enhancement of India-Australia relations to the level of a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP). The advancement to CSP in the bilateral ties comes a decade after their ties were elevated to a Strategic Partnership. This shift is not merely semantic but needs to be understood within the overall context of shifts shaping the Indo-Pacific, which necessitate these countries coming closer together.

The summit saw the signing of nine agreements between India and Australia that expand to cover areas of trade, technology and security. According to the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), the two-way bilateral trade in goods and services between the two countries stood at AU$30.3 billion for 2018-19. Two-way bilateral investments between the countries stood at the level of AU$30.7 billion for 2018. There is, however, a trade imbalance because of India's reliance on coal from Australia. The summit discussed furthering the negotiations on the India-Australia Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, discussions for which began in May 2011 and are yet to be concluded. Australia also highlighted the importance of India reconsidering its membership into the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), which New Delhi withdrew from. India's concerns relating to the finalisation of the service sector agreements and opening of markets to Chinese goods were critical in its decision to exit the RCEP negotiations.

On the technological level, an agreement on cyber and cyber-enabled critical technology cooperation was finalised. The agreement aims at improving cyber resilience of several countries in the region through a joint fund creation that will enable and enhance R&D in the areas of cyber technology used in business partnerships. Another core agreement was on mining and processing of critical and strategic minerals. This agreement needs to be assessed in two ways—first, with the impact of the pandemic on global supply chains, the undisrupted supply of non-fuel minerals is critical for India's manufacturing sector. Second, Australia produces 55% of the global output of lithium. The Indian government's efforts to push ahead with the Make in India programme, particularly in the auto industry and electric car production, can be enhanced through this agreement.

A crucial agreement at the security level remains the key focus of this summit—the Mutual Logistics Support Agreement (MLSA) is the first of its kind with Australia. This clearly reflects the growing areas of security convergence between the two countries, having gone from the lowest ebb during India's nuclear tests to the current levels, endorsing issues of regional stability in the Indo-Pacific. Enhancing military interoperability and providing logistics support for each other in their respective military bases is the core component of the agreement. A key focus for both these countries is to engage more robustly on security-related matters, particularly focused on the maritime domain, which has been reflected in the Joint Declaration on Shared Vision for Maritime Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific. Interestingly, Prime Minister Morrison's statement following the summit highlighted that the two countries had built their ties on the basis of 'mutual understanding, trust and common interests', directly indicating the levels of convergence on 'shared values of democracy and the rule of law'. This has been a core focus for both India and Australia in the maritime domain, because structural shifts in the Indo-Pacific are impacting the normative behaviour of states over maritime territorial claims. As India and Australia have recently faced tensions in their bilateral ties with China, they reassert the importance of the existing normative frameworks, with a particular emphasis on the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Seas (UNCLOS), addressing their mutual adherence to a rules-based international order. The Shared Vision reiterates the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative proposed by Prime Minister Modi during the 2019 East Asia Summit (EAS). The focus of this initiative was to enhance avenues for a collaborative security framework for the Indo-Pacific region.

The Shared Vision clearly endorses that the regional security architecture for the Indo-Pacific will be dependent on multiple types of frameworks—ranging from bilateral to unilateral and multilateral options. This approach to calibrating the regional security architecture clearly addresses several distinct layers that are critical. While building on their bilateral relations, Australia and India are also focused on promoting minilateralism through frameworks such as the Australia-India-Japan trilateral; the IORA trilateral dialogue on the Indian Ocean (TDIO) with Australia-India-Indonesia. The TDIO has also been suggested as a possible framework to advance the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative where these three countries act as the security pillar within the EAS to address issues in the maritime domain. Other quadrilateral and multilateral processes reiterate the security convergences between the two countries. As the regional security challenges continue to shift, both India and Australia need to critically build on the existing frameworks to promote regional stability in the Indo-Pacific.

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> The Mutual Logistics Support Agreement (MLSA) is the first of its kind with Australia. Enhancing military interoperability and providing logistics support for each other in their respective military bases is the core component of the agreement. It clearly reflects the growing areas of security convergence between the two countries that have both recently faced tensions in their ties with China

MOST PRIVATE HOSPITALS ARE NOT LOOKING TO PROFITEER

DR T RAJGOPAL

Healthcare specialist and an expert on public health and health administration

Audi alteram partem is a Latin phrase meaning "Let the other side be heard as well". It is a principle of fundamental justice or equity. This piece seeks to invoke this principle, in the matter of allegations of overcharging and profiteering against private sector hospitals that have been in the news recently.

When seeking to make a contrarian argument, it is best to dispel some myths. First, the notion that all private sector hospitals have been built on land gifted free of cost by the government is a myth. Only a handful of hospitals spread across the country would have secured land at a low cost. Every other hospital has bought or leased its land at market prices.

Second, the sector gets no concessions on its input costs. For example, even while being a sector that is so critical to the health and well-being of the country, it pays commercial rates for power and water usage, and is not able to offset the GST paid on all the input services against its output.

Third, healthcare is a sector that is both capital-intensive and labour-intensive. There is a long gestation period, and quite a difficult path to breaking even. Medical technology is ever evolving, and if we need to be at the forefront of technology, we need to continuously provide funds for updating technology. We also face all the complexity of handling a large labour force, which needs to be trained to high standards of precision and hygiene, while managing service costs optimally. Unappreciated is the level of intensity and skills required in the healthcare industry. Another aspect to remember is that over 70% of a hospital's operating costs are fixed and must be incurred whether there are patients or not.

Fourth, it is important to place on record that the sector is not making disproportionate profits, as seems to have been the public perception. In fact, profits after tax (PAT) margins for private healthcare players have been in low single-digits and return on investment (capital deployed) is also between 5-10% for the top players. This is quite muted compared to other benchmark sectors. Being a commercial enterprise, the pricing needs to generate enough funds to take care of debt servicing, market returns to the shareholder, and retain earnings for future expansion and development.

Now, to the current debate that is about overcharging Covid patients. To begin with, we need to understand Covid—this is a very new, virulent virus, whose effects are yet to be fully known. The severity of Covid in patients is also a factor. There are patients who have mild symptoms, those who have comorbidities or need light oxygen support, and those who need ventilator support. So, treatment options need to be flexible and adjusted according to individual patient needs. Secondly, it spreads rapidly, which means that healthcare workers working with Covid patients are at very high risk and several layers of precautions need to be taken.

Is the sector being considerate and humane and offering discounts when the patient cannot afford care? By and large—yes. There will always be those outliers who will give the sector a bad name, but in this time of national challenge, the private sector healthcare is not looking to profiteer.

Then why does the cost of Covid treatment appear high? There are three elements of treatment cost: Room rent (which is not real estate alone, but several service components like patient food, nursing care, etc.), investigations and procedures/equipment at ICU. If a patient is high risk, i.e. has severe symptoms, comorbidities, requiring a ventilator, etc., the second and third elements of cost will go up, as more frequent investigations and procedures at ICU will be needed, as will the cost of drugs. To see this in perspective, out of 160 Covid patient bills analysed at a leading tertiary care hospital in a metro city, only three bills exceeded ₹10 lakh for an average length of stay of 10-12 days, compared with 4-5 days for non-Covid cases.

As the pandemic has swept the country, the private sector has been an able partner of the government in providing beds for the treatment of patients. Covid beds are not unlimited—there are infrastructural specifications that need to be considered. Despite limitations, the private sector has offered beds and is continuing to treat thousands of patients. Due to the need for physical distancing during Covid, the optimum usage of space and beds has suffered. Staff can also not be easily or routinely switched between patients or departments and are also rendered unavailable for intermittent periods of time due to forced quarantine.

Those calling for caps on private sector billing or regulation of pricing should understand that quality healthcare comes at a cost—putting in place benchmarked international standards for outcomes, patient safety, infection control, clinical pathways, etc., as well as ensuring the highest quality of drugs and consumables.

Health is a national priority. And the private sector, which delivers a large part of the care in our country, is an important stakeholder in making Health for All a reality. In these times of the pandemic, the government's priority is to flatten the Covid curve and to ensure that all patients are well cared for. In that endeavour, the private healthcare sector is duty-bound to help the vulnerable.

> Is the sector being humane and offering discounts when the patient cannot afford care? By and large—yes. There will always be those outliers who give the sector a bad name, but in this time of national challenge, the private sector healthcare is not looking to profiteer. Let me dispel some myths

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

China's divide and rule

Nepal's decision to pass a constitution amendment bill to include disputed territories in its new political map and emblem is not only violative of the current understanding on boundary issues between the two countries, but also a stab in India's back. Our country has always helped Nepal monetarily and in all other possible ways. Nepal should realise that the real intention of expansionist China is to divide and rule its neighbours.

Sudhakar Cherukunnu, Kannur

Not imposing Halal on others

This is with reference to *Hindus, Halal and political correctness* (June 13). No one is imposing anything on others. We Muslims do not eat the food if it is not Halal. We are not restricting others.

A J Akbar Ali, email

Affects livelihood

The author Makarand Paranjape is right when he says that butchers belonging to other religious groups will have their livelihood taken away as many restaurant chains, airlines and even some government establishments offer only Halal meat. With brand penetration getting higher, butchers belonging to other religions will suffer.

Raghu, Chennai

Others should say no to it

I agree with the author. I have always felt bad about the suffering an animal went through in the Halal way. The author has pointed out the commercial and livelihood aspects, which makes it much worse. It's time for Hindus and other non-Muslims to say no to Halal meat.

Thambi Chandran, Visakhapatnam

A tolerant society

Paranjape and Rahul Gandhi provide diametrically opposite viewpoints on the subject of tolerance in Indian society. While the former observes it is the tyranny of the minority in which "the most intolerant wins", Rahul rues "that open DNA is sort of disappearing" in India. That we are a tolerant society has been proven over the millennia in which different faiths and atheists coexisted. It is the intolerant who cannot adapt to a non-Nehru-Gandhi leadership in the country.

H Ramamoorthy, Tirunelveli

Give bail to her

Safoora Zargar is pregnant and behind bars during a pandemic. All that the Jamia student activist did was to protest against the CAA. She should be given bail.

M S R Rao, Bengaluru

Changing political dynamics

This is with reference to the article *Vote politics: Biology in Black, Brown & White* (June 14). The author Prabhu Chawla has covered in a comprehensive, accurate and crisp way, the change in political dynamics in most of the developed as well as developing countries including Bharat and America.

Manoj Kumar Sinha, Visakhapatnam

Kudos to IIT-Madras

It is heartening to note that IIT Madras has retained its top position as the best educational institute in the country as per the NIRF rankings released recently. A faculty of international repute, a brilliant student community, excellent technical and supporting staff, and an effective administration have all contributed to its pre-eminent status.

R Sivakumar, Chennai

Kerala's Covid move unfair

The Kerala government's insistence on a Covid negative certificate from those coming home from abroad is unfair. What amount of concern can an alien country have on a person set to return, whom even the home country is hesitant to receive? Kerala's recovery rate is very high and so there is no need to take such extreme decisions.

Sanath Kumar T S, Thrissur

GST even on medical bills

It is good to see that during this pandemic, governments at the Centre and states are asking private firms and house owners to be generous. But on the other hand, governments are increasing the burden on citizens with fuel tax hikes and GST even on medical bills. They should practice what they preach.

T Kailash Ditya, Hyderabad

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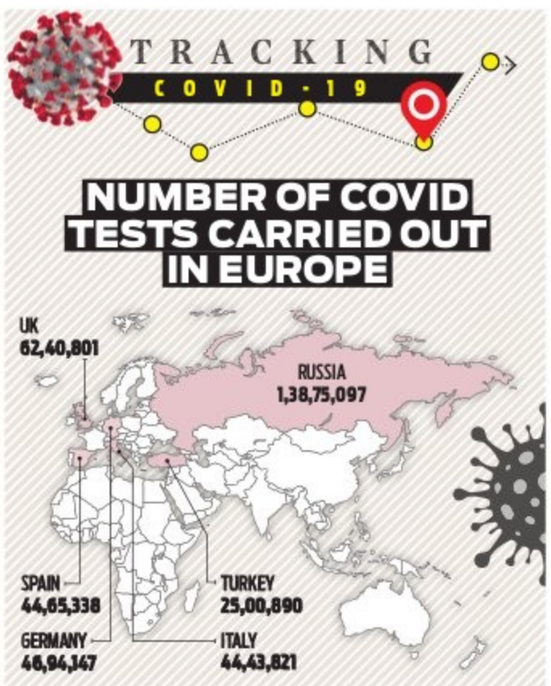
The corona crisis will not last long. Scientists are working to develop the vaccine. We will get the cure soon

— Nitin Gadkari, Union minister

COVID MITRA

The Madhya Pradesh health department has proposed to rope in volunteers as 'Covid Mitra' to help in containing the virus

133 FRESH CASES CORONA CASES IN RAJASTHAN



Centre contradicts self on community spread

In new Covid clinical management SOP, govt defines suspect, probable & confirmed cases

SUMI SUKANYA DUTTA @ New Delhi

JUST two days after top government authorities asserted that India has not reached community transmission stage of Covid-19 pandemic, the Centre has asked doctors to view people with related symptoms who live in or have been to "location (s) reporting community transmission" as "suspect cases".

In the revised clinical management protocol issued on Saturday, the Health Ministry has defined suspect, probable and confirmed cases.

In the document, a suspect case has been defined as "A patient with acute respiratory illness (fever and at least one sign/symptom of respiratory disease, e.g., cough, shortness of breath), and a patient with acute respiratory illness (fever and at least one sign/symptom of respiratory disease, e.g., cough, shortness of breath)." Such a case can also be someone with "a history of travel to or residence in a location reporting community transmission of Covid-19 disease during the 14 days prior to symptom onset."

On Thursday, in a press briefing to announce partial results of the serosurvey — conducted to gauge the spread of SARS CoV 2 virus in the country, Indian Council of Medical Research director general Dr Balaram Bhargava and Dr V K Paul, who heads the national task Covid 19 had said that there is no community transmission so far.

Sharing some of the results of the survey — based on the representative antibody based survey carried out in 83 districts, Dr Bhargava had said that 0.73 per cent of the population in non-hotspot districts had been found to be exposed to the virus. "The prevalence has been found to be less than 1 per cent in small districts. In urban and containment areas it may be slightly higher. But, India is definitely not in community transmission. I would like to emphasize it," Dr Bhargava had said and Dr Paul too spoke on similar lines.

A suspected corona patient waits to be admitted at LNJP hospital in New Delhi | PTI

Given that, government maintains that there is no community transmission of the disease yet. "If the government has to err, it has to be on the higher side but the opposite seems to be happening," said Dr Anupam Singh, an infectious disease expert. "There is a clear contradiction in what authorities are saying and what this document says."

An email query sent to the health ministry seeking the government response on how are clinicians expected to identify "location with community transmission" when there is no list of such areas however has remained unanswered so far.

In a strong worded statement issued on Saturday, Progressive Medicos and Scientists Forum— a group of doctors, scientists — said, "Many fallacious arguments seemed to have been forwarded to ultimately claim that there is no community transmission as of date."

"Just a day before their conference, the health minister of Delhi had accepted that in more than 50 percent of the cases they had failed to zero in on the source of infection. What else is this Dr Bhargava if not community transmission?"the group asked.

ORDERS RESTORATION

Manipur HC links corona to destruction of forests

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

LINKING diseases including Covid-19 to the destruction of forests and displacement of forest species, the Manipur High Court has ordered the restoration of country's lost forest for maintaining environment and ecology.

Hearing a public interest litigation (PIL) filed by Manipur Valley Village Reserve Forest Rights Protection Association, a two-judge Division Bench of Chief Justice Ramalingam Sudhakar and Justice A Bimol Singh said as the pandemic had "trampled" continents to decimate the homo sapiens, there was a need to keep the forest intact as much as possible and a "*Lakshman rekha*" needed to be drawn based on research and study of each forest.

The court made references to several books and articles written by naturalist Charles Darwin, Nobel laureate and biologist Sir Peter Medawar, veteran journalist Jim Robbins, Professor Carl Bergstrom of the University of Washington who is an authority on pandemic and infectious disease to drive home its point.

"There are ever so many animals viruses that are yet to come and cause global pandemics which make it imperative that we protect forests, reforest empty lands and provide buffer zones separating humans and wildlife to prevent such extinction events from occurring again and again," the court quoted from Professor Bergstrom's article.

The court said the question posed before it was if there was a link between destruction of forest and pandemic. "A virus is a piece of bad news wrapped in protein," said Nobel Laureate Sir Peter Medawar, an eminent biologist. That simple looking protein coated RNA is rocking world to pieces, court said. It said while there had been a clarion call for halting deforestation, the need to restore the lost forest had now become relevant due to the pandemic.

"The restoration of forest, wherever destroyed, will ensure that ecology is restored to bring back the fine balance that nature has envisioned for itself," the court said.

The court insisted that human beings redefine their role in the cycle of nature.

Migrants stuck in Maharashtra await assurance from U'Khand

VINEET UPADHYAY @ Dehradun

OVER 1,900 migrants stuck in Maharashtra who are willing to return have got no assurances from Uttarakhand state government despite repeated requests through various communication channels.

Few people from Uttarakhand and Maharastra have come together to put a team 'Pravasi Sahyogi Team' which has been trying to arrange for the migrants to return to their home state but have not been able to do so due to no communication from Uttarakhand government.

Shveta Mashiwal, from Ramnagar and lives in Mumbai said, "Our team has been trying to contact Uttarakhand government since last week. We have approached key officials including the CMO. Things are in 'motion' according to a response."

However, state government officials said that they are in knowledge of the matter and it will be resolved soon. Sources added that the state government is also in touch with actor Sonu Sood for collaboration.

Relatives perform last rites of a family member who died of Covid in New Delhi | PTI

India's virus tally crosses 3.2L with 11,929 fresh cases

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE number of confirmed Covid-19 cases reached 3,20, 922 in the country on Sunday morning with 11, 929 fresh cases detected — highest for the day — within 24 hours.

The virus toll has now reached 9,195 in India with 311 more deaths reported overnight. The case fatality rate due to the infection which was 2.8 per cent for last several days also shot up marginally to 2.9 per cent on Sunday morning.

Of the new deaths reported in a day, 113 were from Maharashtra, followed by 57 in Delhi, 33 in Gujarat and 30 in Tamil Nadu.

The Ministry of Health in a daily bulletin said that with 8,049 patients cured in the last 24 hours, the recovery rate has crossed 50 per cent and now stands at 50.6 per cent. Currently, 1,49,348 active cases are under medical supervision.

In a separate statement, the ministry also clarified that Ebola drug remdesivir has been included as an "investigational therapy" only for restricted emergency use on Covid-19 patients — as indicated in the revised clinical management protocol issued on Saturday.

The ministry said that the medicine—unavailable in India as of now — is being permitted for restricted emergency use along with off label use of immune suppressive drug tocilizumab, convalescent Plasma.

The statement underlined that use of these therapies is based on limited available evidence and limited availability at present. "Use of remdesivir under emergency use may be considered in patients with moderate disease (those on oxygen) but with no specified contraindications. This drug has still not been approved (market authorization) by the US Food and Drug Administration, where like India it continues only under an emergency use authorization," said the release.

Use of remdesivir under emergency use may be considered in patients with moderate disease (those on oxygen) but with no specified contraindications.

Health Ministry statement

"Written informed consent of each patient required, results of additional clinical trials to be submitted, active surveillance data of all treated patients to be submitted, risk management plan along with active post-marketing surveillance and reporting of serious adverse events also to be submitted. Additionally, the first three batches of imported consignments are to be tested and reports submitted to the Central Drug Standard Control Organisation," it said.

Bengal govt in no hurry to increase beds for Covid cases

PRANAB MONDAL @ Kolkata

ALTHOUGH the total number of positive cases reached 10,000-mark, the West Bengal government's decision not to rush to increase beds for Covid-19 patients rightaway as most of the migrant returnees are recovering fast prompted health department officials to raise questions on its strategy.

Questioning the decision, health department officials feel keeping Bengal 'ready for worst' is the need of the hour.

"We don't know how many Covid-19 positive but asymptomatic returnees have been allowed home quarantine. The situation could change within a week or two," said an official.

According to health department official, West Bengal has 8,785 beds designated for Covid-19 patients of which 20 per cent are occupied. Out of more than 5,500 present positive cases, around 3,000 are migrant workers.

"Less than 1 per cent migrant workers develop acute symptoms that need life support. This is much better than the national average. In the country, 2.55 per cent of active cases are in intensive care units, 1.96 per cent on oxygen support and 0.48 per cent on ventilators," said the official.

Maharashtra: Jalgaon becomes epicentre of corona deaths

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

MAHARSHTRA'S Jalgaon district has turned out to be the epicentre for Covid-19, with mortality rate is almost 7.36 per cent as against 3.66 per cent rate of Maharashtra and 2.87 per cent in the entire country.

The total Covid-19 cases in Maharashtra stands at 1,04,568 and 3,830 deaths have been reported in last three months in the state, while in Jalgaon district alone there are 1,630 positive cases and 120 deaths. In the same district, 653 patients have been cured and discharged.

According to Maharashtra health department data, Mumbai's mortality rate is 3.71 per cent while Pune's is 4. 30 per cent and Nagpur is 1.31 per cent.

Jalgaon district collector Akash Dhakne said, "If we take total population into account, then we are in better positions. The per million tests and death in Jalgaon is much lower than Mumbai, Pune and other metro cities." The district collector said, "The health staff also need to work equally to bring down the Covid -19 positive cases and deaths equally. I personally converted many private hospitals into civil affiliated hospitals with ICU and oxygen facilities. People are getting better services now. Other people also need to shoulder the responsibility."

In Jalgaon, three medical officers were suspended in a Covid patient's missing and death case.

Now Kishor targets Nitish over 'reluctance' to step out

Patna: Election strategist Prashant Kishor appeared to be lending his voice to the opposition in Bihar on Sunday, when he attacked Chief Minister Nitish Kumar for allegedly not coming out of his official residence here for nearly three months following the Covid-19 outbreak. Kishor, who was elevated to the post of national vice-president in the Janata Dal (United) headed by Kumar within weeks of joining the outfit two years ago but expelled from it on disciplinary grounds earlier this year, came out with a stinging tweet criticising the ruling NDA for gearing up for the Assembly polls at a time when the outbreak has entered a critical stage in Bihar. He also lamented that the Assembly polls were dominating the discourse in Bihar, instead of the coronavirus, "though the state has reported more than 6,000 cases, despite the testing ratio being the lowest in the country."

HELPING HAND

Volunteers distribute food materials among needy people during fifth phase of Covid-19 lockdown in Kolkata | PTI

Uttarakhand: Jail, ₹5000 fine for not wearing masks

Dehradun: The Uttarakhand government has amended a law to impose ₹5000 fine and six months imprisonment for flouting safety norms related to Covid-19 epidemic. Madan Kaushik, state cabinet minister and spokesperson for the government said, "The amendment is to strengthen the law to prevent spread of Covid-19. The law will make people aware and penalize those who refuse to abide by it. It is for their safety only." The governor of Uttarakhand on Saturday gave assent to the Uttarakhand Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Ordinance 2020 to amend the Epidemic Diseases Act of 1897. Uttarakhand has become third state after Kerela and Odisha to amend the law. Officials from the state government said that the amendment was made in sections 2 and 3 of the Epidemic Diseases Act after which the norms related to wearing face masks, maintaining social distance or quarantine would now be implemented in a more strict manner.

Punjab collects ₹4.60 cr fine for not wearing masks

Chandigarh: Over the last two months, the Punjab government has recovered ₹4.6 crore in fine, maximum of which was collected for not wearing masks. The government so far has collected ₹2.25 crore as fine for not wearing a mask in public, while a total of ₹1 crore fine was also collected for spitting in public places. Initially, a fine of ₹200 was imposed for not wearing a mask and ₹100 for spitting in public places but later on May 30 it was increased by the state government to ₹500 each. The fine for not maintaining social distance is ₹3,000. Sources said that till date around 91,000 people have been challaned by the authorises. Maximum challans in this regard have been issued in Jalandhar, where ₹50 lakh fine was collected as 16,690 challans were issued, followed by Bathinda with ₹24.28 lakh as fine and 8,675 challans issued. Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh said that 41,000 out of 81,000 Punjab Police force are engaged in Covid related duty for checking violation.

HUMANITY

Bihar man manufactures herbal sanitiser

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ Patna

SHAMBHU Nath Sikariya, a 62-year-old, businessman from Bihar's Motihari, is grateful to God that he is able to distribute more than 93, 000 litres of herbal sanitiser from March 25 to May 10 among the poor and also in offices like the Railways, Bihar Governor house and the CM houses, DGP residence. He also distributes the sanitiser in colleges, universities, private clinics, banks, FCI warehouses.

"I have prepared this sanitizer under the Radha Krishna Seva Sansthan Trust," he said speaking to this newspaper over phone on Sunday.

He said that herbal sanitiser has been prepared manually under his guidance following the ayurvedic formula with neem leafs, aloe vera,alum, lemon and other ingredients by a team of 10 labourers at his residence.

However, now he has started charging for the sanitiser. "Now, I have set up a mini plant for preparing the herbal sanitiser and hence have started charging one litre of this herbal sanitiser at ₹50," he said.

He said that his plant set up for manufacturing herbal would continue manufacturing it till the pandemic prevails.

Known widely for writing letters to the PM, CM and many other VVIP dignitaries on public issues, Sikariya said that he still writes at least 300 to 400 letters drawing their attention on the public issues.

Honoured with a number of accolades for his services to society, he now has now made up his mind to put up his candidature for the MLC elections ahead.

COOPERATION ON

Indian and Nepalese security agencies are working in co-ordination with each other to stop 'anti-national activities' along the Indo-Nepal border here, a senior official of Uttar Pradesh police said on Sunday.

2 TIGER CUBS WERE KILLED BY AN ADULT BIG CAT IN MP

Ahmedabad	37	27	Mumbai	31	27
Bhopal	35	26	Panaji	30	28
Jaipur	42	31	Patna	35	27
Amritsar	43	27	Lucknow	36	28
Chennai	39	28	Port Blair	31	28
Kolkata	33	27	Imphal	29	22
Srinagar	32	11	Chandigarh	42	29

'India's national pride won't be compromised'

Defence Minister also assures Oppn that govt will brief it about LAC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@New Delhi

INDIA'S "national pride" will not be compromised as far as border tension with China is concerned, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh told a BJP's virtual rally on Sunday.

"Both India and China are keen that the issues are sorted through talks at military and diplomatic levels. I want to assure you that India's national pride won't be compromised. I want to assure our opposition parties that they won't be kept in the dark and will be briefed when the time comes," he said, adding that China has expressed wish to resolve the dispute with India through talks, and the Indian government also has a similar view.

"This is also our effort to defuse the tussle between India and China through military and diplomatic level talks," he said, stating that the two countries are engaged in military level dialogue.

On the decision to abrogate Article 370, he said while previously the Kashmir Valley used to witness IS flags being unfurled, the move by the Centre has changed the scenario. "Earlier in Kashmir, protests demanding '*Kashmir azadi*' were held and flags of Pakistan & ISIS were seen. Now only the Indian flag is seen there."

The Defence Minister took a swipe at Pakistan, saying "*mausam badal chuka hai* (the season has changed)."

"Our channels are broadcasting weather forecasts of Muzaffarabad-Gilgit. *Ye darja hararat batane ke karan, ab Islamabad mein bhi kuch hararat mehsus hone lagi hai* (Islamabad too is feeling the heat). That's why they are bent upon doing more mischiefs," the semnior BJP leader said.

Going a step ahead, Singh said, "Soon people of Pakistan occupied Kashmir will demand that they want to be with India and not under the rule of Pakistan. And the day it happens, a goal set by our Parliament will also be accomplished."

With agency inputs

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh addresses a virtual rally in Delhi on Sunday | PTI

> India do not want land that rightfully belongs to Pakistan or China. All India want is peace, amity, love, and (want) to work together (with neighbours)
>
> Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister

'India wants peace from neighbours'

India is not interested in land of Pakistan or China but wanted peace and amity, Union minister Nitin Gadkari said. At a virtual 'Jan Samvad' rally of Gujarat BJP from Nagpur, he said India believed in peace and non-violence and do not want to be strong by becoming an expansionist. "India never tried to grab land of its neighbours like Bhutan and Bangladesh," the senior BJP leader said.

'Chinese PLA has not got tactical advantage at LAC'

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

THE situation at LAC in Ladakh cannot be compared with what happened in Kargil and in no way the 'occupation' of the Finger 4 will give a major tactical advantage to China, former head of the Indian Army's Northern Command D S Hooda said on Sunday. "People are comparing it with Kargil which is completely wrong. The Chinese have just come in 2-3 km along the lake. It doesn't give them any tactical advantage in future," he said.

In 1999, the Pakistan Army had occupied heights in Kargil which the Indian Army had vacated in winters. "Those positions in Kargil were well within our side but in the present situation in Eastern Ladakh, the LAC is not yet firmed up."

On the claims of PLA occupying more than 60 sq km of Indian territory, he said it is not true but emphasised that this time it is different from what happened in Chumar, Depsang and Doklam. "The issues earlier were local and this time they have come at multiple points."

"In Chumar, they were trying to build road. In Depsang, they had pitched tents in our area and tried to build road in Doklam again but we resolved it all through talks. This time, their intentions and demands are not known," he said.

"Such major crisis cannot be created for 2-3 km territory or for minor issues, the military move is to put pressure on India."

Horse-trading: SOG, ACB begin probe

RAJESH ASNANI @ Jaipur

THE Special Operations Group (SOG) of the Rajasthan Police has started probing the charges of horse trading to influence the Rajya Sabha polls made by Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot.

On Friday, Gehlot had alleged that cash offers of up to Rs 25 crores were being made to poach MLAs for cross voting in the upcoming RS polls.

Sources said the SOG will soon summon Mahesh Joshi, the chief whip of the Congress in Rajasthan Assembly, who had complained to the Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) about the efforts to buy and sell MLAs earlier this week. Joshi had claimed that horse-trading was being done to destabilise a duly-elected government. Congress and Independent MLAs were being offered huge sums of money over phone, he had had claimed.

The ACB has also started its probe on the complaint from Joshi. According to Saurabh Shrivastava, Additional D-G at ACB, the Intelligence Wing of the ACB has registered an FIR and on the basis of source-based information, a detailed investigation and a confidential report will be prepared on the complaint.

Smriti Irani takes swipe at Cong leaders

Union minister Smriti Irani asserted that Congress leaders in Rajasthan were using "BJP's shoulder" to settle score with each other, but cautioned them against making people suffer during pandemic.

Meanwhile, the BJP has hit back at Gehlot's allegations of horse-trading being encouraged by top BJP leaders.

Targeting the ruling Congress for handing over the case to SOG, Deputy Leader of Opposition Rajendra Rathore claimed that the state government is tapping the phones of opposition leaders in the garb of probes into alleged poaching of MLAs. "By ordering an investigation by the SOG and the ACB, the Gehlot government is tapping phone calls of the opposition members."

Pak shelling kills jawan, LoC seeing record ceasefire violations this year

SANA SHAKIL & MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

AN Indian army man was killed and two others injured in Pakistani troops firing and mortar shelling along the Line of Control (LoC) in J&K's Poonch district on Sunday.

Halfway into the year, Pakistan has already violated the LoC ceasefire 2,027 times. As many as 114 instances of ceasefire violations were reported in the first 10 days of June as compared to 181 and 14 instances of ceasefire violations in the whole month in 2019 and 2018 respectively.

In 2019, the Pakistanis had violated the most in the last 16 years with as many as 3,168 instances. The daily rate of ceasefire violations last year stood at an average of nine instances. But going by the current rate of violations, 2020 is likely to turn out even more volatile than the previous year.

In 2018, the number of ceasefire violations stood relatively low at 1,629. From January till June, the number of ceasefire violations have broken all records each month this year. While there 203, 215, 267, 234 and 221 instances of ceasefire violations in January, February, March, April and May 2019, cross-border firings almost doubled every month this year. There were 367, 366, 411, 387 and 382 instances of ceasefire violations in January, February, March, April and May.

Even under the COVID situation, there was no let down in operations in Jammu and Kashmir and this let to engagements between the troops and terrorists. "A lot of terrorists have been killed this year. Pakistan Army is trying to increase the number of infiltration so that instability is maintained in the valley thus they are restoring to such heightened ceasefire violation," said a source.

As many as 98 terrorists have been killed by the security forces, government sources said. Till May 31, 52 locals were allegedly recruited by terror organisations. In the previous year and a year before that, 119 and 219 locals were recruited by terrorist organisations.

Sources in security agencies said that efforts are on to rehabilitate these 52 people into the mainstream.

EXPRESS READ

5.3 magnitude tremor shakes parts of Gujarat

Ahmedabad: An earthquake of 5.3 magnitude shook parts of Gujarat on Sunday night with its epicentre near Bhachau in Kutch district. The tremor was recorded at 8:13 pm. Thequake was felt in cities like Kutch, Rajkot, Ahmedabad and Patan, where many people rushed out of their houses. "Its epicentre was located 13 kilometres north-north east from Bhachau," an officials said. No report to damage to property or life was reported.

The entourage of Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan at Tinsukia | PTI

'Won't spare the guilty behind Assam disaster'

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwhati

THE Centre on Sunday said the people affected by the oil blowout and the resultant fire at Baghjan area of Assam's Tinsukia district would be adequately compensated.

The announcement was made by Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, who inspected the site along with Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal. "It was a very unfortunate incident. Together with the Assam government, the Government of India will solve the problem as early as possible. We will assess the damage and compensate the affected families adequately," Pradhan told the locals.

The demands of the locals includ payment of ₹1 crore as compensation to each affected family. Over 7,000 people from around 1,500 families have been affected by the incident. They are now lodged in various relief camps.

The Union Minister said after the probe report was submitted by a three-member high-level Central committee, action would be taken against the guilty.

During their visit, Pradhan and Sonowal also assessed the damage and took stock of the control measures being carried out by foreign experts and specialists from the Oil India Limited and other agencies and the progress made so far.

Sonowal said his government was taking the matter very seriously and as such, asked an Additional Chief Secretary to conduct a probe and an Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (Wildlife) to carry out a study on the adverse impact of gas well explosion on ecology and environment of the area.

He announced that the government had earmarked ₹27 crore for bringing a permanent solution to the problems of floods and erosion in the area.

Development agenda will be NDA's poll plank in Bihar

MANISH ANAND @ New Delhi

WITH development agenda for the Bihar polls. Chief Minister Nitish Kumar is building an election campaign around "*Har Ghar ko Bijli-Pani* (power and water connections to each home), while the BJP is banking on completion of the big ticket infrastructure projects.

While in the recent launch of the BJP campaign by Union Home Minister Amit Shah saw him highlight the fulfillment of the ₹1.25 lakh cr developmental projects, Nitish is also busy rallying JD (U) workers through video-conference meetings.

Confident that the Bihar elections will be held in October-November, JD (U) national general secretary K C Tyagi cited the example of the polls in South Korea which registered 62 per cent voter turnout when the country was battling the Covid pandemic. "There will not be much of the problem in holding elections. The Nitish Kumar government has ensured electricity and water connections and that will be the poll plank of the party," Tyagi said, adding that connections would be ensured in the remaining "few homes".

Senior JD (U) leader Ranjan Singh alias Lallan Singh claimed the Bihar government has effectively handled the issue of migrants. "The quarantine centres in the state handled 15 lakh migrants to their satisfaction. It will not be a poll issue. We will contest the elections on the achievements of the NDA government."

"JD (U) is fully charged up for the state elections, with the party leaders connecting with the workers at the booth level," Singh added.

The Opposition, however, has begun building campaign around the economic hardships faced by the people during the lockdown and the consequent unemployment. Nitish would be completing three terms, having ousted the RJD from power in 2005.

Sushant's father inconsolable, family shocked

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @Patna

THE news of Bollywood celebrated actor Sushant Singh Rajput's untimely death sent shock waves across at his home in Patna on Sunday.

Relatives and well-wishers descended at the house in Rajiv Nagar where the actor's father KK Singh, 65,was inconsolable even as tributes poured in from across the country.

Hundreds of people living in and around Rajiv Nagar gathered outside Sushant's home. "He was very emotional and intelligent. He had been one of the brilliant students at Saints Karen School from where he completed schooling in 2000," Munna, a neighbourer said .

Sushant was good in math and pursued engineering from a Delhi college but his innate talent in acting shot him to fame, Munna said.

"The news of Sushant's death has left not only his father and kin shocked but the people of Purnea and Khagaria as well. His ancestral home is at Maldiha village in Purnea and his mothe's home is at Khagaria," Ranjan Kumar Sinha, a publicity manager, said.

Laxmi Devi, caretaker of Sushant's father, told the media that two days ago, Sushant had advised his father not to venture out from home amid the growing Covid infection.

She said that Sushant had been complaining of living with severe"headache" for last six months and feeling somewhat down and disappointed. "He was fondly called as Gulshan in his home... His mother died in 2002 and since then, Gulshan missed his mother," she said, adding that he had assured his father to go on a " rejuvenating tour" to any hill station.

Rakesh Singh, uncle of Sushant in Purnea, was shell-shocked. "How can he do like that? He was the person, who never felt down even during the adverse times."

Bihar CM Nitish Kumar send condolences to the tragedy-hit family. Sushant Singh Rajput was a bright young actor who has gone too soon, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, espressing shock at his death.

Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik and Union Ministers Dharmendra Pradhan and Pratap Sarangi were among politicans who expressed grief and shock at the death of the actor. BJP national vice president Baijayant Panda has condoled the death of the actor. "Stunned & terribly saddened at the sudden ending to a promising life & career...," Panda tweeted.

The father of actor Sushant Singh Rajput is inconsolable at his residence in Patna | PTI

> He was fondly called as Gulshan in his home... His mother died in 2002 and since then, Gulshan missed his mother. He had assured his father to go on a " rejuvenating tour" to any hill station
>
> Laxmi Devi, caretaker of Sushant's father

LUCKNOW DIARY

NAMITA BAJPAI
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Haunting silence in City of Nawabs

The lockdown period has resulted in less noisy neighbourhoods in the City of Nawabs in the 68-day period between March 25 and May 31. Noise levels in Lucknow dipped by 20-30 per cent in various localities at night, compared to the same period last year. Even day-time average noise levels had dipped sharply by 8-25 per cent in different localities as compared to same period in 2019, but continued to be above prescribed limits, says a study conducted by CSIR-Indian Institute of Toxicology Research.

A 'Saathi' to rescue

In a first-of-its-kind initiative, the Lucknow police commissionerate is set to assign a cop as a 'Saathi' (companion) for women to work out help her in any case of crime. The project, started by crime against women and safety cell (CAWAS) of the police commissionerate, will help in solving pending cases of crime against women and girls under its 'Saathi' project. The 'Saathi' can be any woman cop from the rank of constable to sub-inspector. The 'Saathi' personnel will also inform the complainants about their rights, schemes in which financial assistance is provided by the government, and also get their counselling done. Cases of rape and those falling under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act would be taken up first.

Big B's big gesture

Bollywood superstar Amitabh Bachchan, in collaboration with Haji Ali Trust and the Mahim Dargah Trust, booked chartered flights to help around 1,550 migrant workers stranded in Mumbai amidst Covid lockdown reach their homes safely in Uttar Pradesh. The mega star joined hands with the trusts to arrange the special flights after a train was cancelled due to some issues. While a flight with 180 migrants reached Allahabad, another carrying 174 passengers landed at Varanasi. Bachchan and the trusts also arranged taxis to take the migrants to home in places like Basti, Kaushambi, Bhadohi, and Pratapgrah.

Architect on temple trust

Well-known architect Vandana Sehgal, who is also the principal of the college of architecture at AKTU, was roped in by the coveted Shree Ramjanmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust as a member jury to finalise design and architecture of the proposed Ram temple in Ayodhya. Amid speculations that PM Modi would lay the foundation stone next month, pre-construction activities have picked up in the town. As the jury, Sehgal will assist the trust in giving final shape to the temple with the selection of architects. She would also select architects for the temple. A member of the council of architecture, Sehgal has worked with many national and international organisations and institutes associated with architecture.

€3.75 bn

Spanish PM Pedro Sanchez announced a 3.75-billion-euro aid plan for the car industry

GLOBAL WEATHER

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	34	22 SNY	Los Angeles	25	15 SNY
Colombo	31	26 TDS	Melbourne	17	10 LC
Doha	41	29 SNY	Moscow	17	10 HR
Dubai	39	28 SNY	New York	24	14 SNY
Houston	35	23 SNY	Singapore	32	26 TDS
Istanbul	23	18 LR	Toronto	18	10 SNY
London	24	14 SNY	Washington DC	26	17 LC

LONDON

Churchill's photo missing from Google search list

Google said it would explore why the picture of Winston Churchill disappeared from a top search results list of former UK prime ministers, during controversy over his record on racism. The search giant said the photo's removal from its horizontal list atop search results for former British premiers was due to an automatic update and "not purposeful".

LYNCHBURG

Republican who officiated gay wedding loses primary

A freshman Virginia GOP congressman who angered social conservatives in his district when he officiated a gay wedding lost his party's nomination. US Representative Denver Riggleman lost the GOP convention after he upset many Republicans in his district last summer when he officiated the wedding of two male campaign aides.

WASHINGTON

Covid-19 survivor shocked by $1.1 mn US hospital bill

A 70-year-old American man who nearly died of Covid-19 has been billed a heart-stopping $1.1 million for his hospital expenses. Michael Flor stayed in the Seattle hospital 62 days. The bill is fully covered under government insurance. But in a country where healthcare is hugely expensive, he said he feels "guilty" knowing that taxpayers will bear much of the cost.

LONDON

Thousands defy lockdown to attend raves in England

Thousands of people defied coronavirus restrictions to attend two illegal raves in Manchester in England, where one man died from a suspected drug overdose, police said on Sunday. Around 4,000 people gathered for one of the Saturday night events, while another 2,000 turned out for a second party which saw three separate stabbings.

BERLIN

Europe opens borders but not to Americans, Asians

Europe is taking a big step toward a new normality as many countries open borders to fellow Europeans after three months of lockdowns — but even though Europeans love their summer vacations, it's not clear how many are ready to travel again. Tourists from the US, Asia, Latin American and will just have to wait, for now. Spain will restart foreign tourism in full on July 1.

PORTLAND

Pandemic leads to a global bicycle boom

Fitness junkies locked out of gyms, commuters fearful of public transit, and families going stir crazy inside their homes during the coronavirus pandemic have created a boom in bicycle sales unseen in decades. In the US, bicycle aisles at mass merchandisers like Walmart have been swept clean, and small shops are doing a brisk business.

LOS ANGELES

Next James Bond film set for Nov 25 release in US

The makers of the new James Bond film, *No Time To Die*, have advanced the release of the much-anticipated film in American theatres by five days. The movie, which was scheduled to hit the theatres in the US on Nov 25, will now release on Nov 20. Global release dates will follow, a statement said. The film is Daniel Craig's final outing as the spy.

ANOTHER BLACK MAN KILLED BY COP IN U.S., POLICE CHIEF RESIGNS

Officer fatally shoots Rayshard Brooks at parking lot of Wendy's while trying to arrest him

Rayshard Brooks (R) speaks with officer Garrett Rolfe in the parking lot of a Wendy's restaurant in Atlanta, Georgia. On the right, the restaurant burns after angry demonstrators set it on fire over the killing of Brooks by Rolfe | AP

ATLANTA

THE police chief in the US city of Atlanta resigned after an officer fatally shot a black man during an arrest, the mayor said Saturday, with the new killing injecting fresh anger into protests against racism and police brutality.

Images on local media showed hundreds of protesters in the streets on Saturday and flames engulfing a Wendy's restaurant where 27-year-old Rayshard Brooks was killed.

The officer who shot Brooks was dismissed Saturday and identified by Atlanta police as Garrett Rolfe. The second officer was placed on administrative duty.

In televised comments made earlier in the day, Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms said Atlanta police chief Erika Shields "has offered to immediately step aside as police chief."

Demonstrators were out on the streets before night fell Saturday, with one group blocking a highway near the Wendy's restaurant and facing off with police.

Atlanta police chief Erika Shields | AP

The unrest comes as the US faces a historic reckoning on systemic racism, with mass civil unrest ignited by the May 25 killing of another African-American man, George Floyd, while in police custody.

Floyd died after a white Minneapolis police officer knelt on his neck for nearly nine minutes.

How Brooks was killed

The Georgia Bureau of Investigation, which is probing the shooting, said the deadly confrontation started with a complaint that a man was sleeping in a car blocking the restaurant's drive-thru lane.

The GBI said Brooks failed a field sobriety test and then resisted officers' attempts to arrest him.

Rolfe is seen on body camera video administering the field sobriety test, followed by a Breathalyzer test with Brooks' permission. He moves to arrest Brooks after the Breathalyzer test; while he doesn't tell Brooks the result, the machine displays a 0.108 in video captured by Rolfe's own body camera.

The GBI released security camera video of the shooting, which does not show Brooks' initial struggle with police. The footage shows a man running from two white police officers as he raises a hand, which is holding an object, toward an officer a few steps behind him. The officer draws his gun and fires as the man keeps running, then falls to the ground in the parking lot. GBI Director Vic Reynolds said Brooks had grabbed a Taser from one officer and appeared to point it at the cop as he fled. The officer fired an estimated three shots. *Agencies*

DON'S UNSTEADY RAMP WALK RAISES CONCERNS

As US President Donald Trump turns 74 on Sunday, an incident a day earlier in which he appeared unsteady on his feet has revived questions about his health as he heads into a grueling re-election campaign. Scrutiny of a president's health is always intense, and Trump has generally appeared vigorous for his age. Results of a routine physical released early this month showed he was overweight (110 kg). But his appearance Saturday at the US military academy in West Point, New York raised new questions about apparent signs of unsteadiness, balance problems and trouble enunciating certain words.

JAPAN MOURNS FLOYD

People take part in a Black Lives Matter protest march in Tokyo on Sunday. The protests are part of a worldwide movement sparked by the killing of African-American man George Floyd in the United States | AFP

Sunak reveals racist abuse he suffered as kid

Rishi Sunak | AFP

LONDON

UK Chancellor Rishi Sunak has spoken out about the racist abuse he faced as a child growing up in Britain, but stressed that the country has made enormous progress.

The Indian-origin Chancellor, who was born in the UK, revealed that the abuse felt far worse when it occurred in the presence of his younger siblings. "It's the sort of thing that's happening on your own it's difficult enough but when I had my younger brother and sister with me at the time it was particularly upsetting; I wanted to protect them from it," he told *Sky News*, when asked about his experience of racist abuse.

"They may just be words, but they sting in a way that other things don't. There is something about that [racist abuse] that cuts to your core."

The minister stressed that violent clashes, of the kind seen during some protests in London on Saturday, were 'both shocking and disgusting' and those responsible should face tough legal consequences.

He said: 'This has always been an open, and tolerant country and what we saw yesterday was not that." PTI

ASIA MATTERS

PAKISTAN

Infections will peak at 10 lakh: Minister

Pakistan's planning minister warned on Sunday that the number of coronavirus cases in the country could double by the end of June and peak at more than 10 lakh infections just a month later. The warning from planning minister Asad Umar comes as many in the country continue to ignore guidance on social distancing, hygiene and other measures to tackle the disease. Pakistan currently has confirmed nearly 1,40,000 cases of Covid-19, with the toll approaching 2,700. Testing has been limited.

AFGHANISTAN

New polio cases found

Afghanistan has detected polio in areas previously declared free of the life-threatening disease after immunisation programmes were paused due to the pandemic. Balkh, Herat and Badakhshan have each declared a single case.

BANGLADESH

Virus tally expands by 3,141 in just one day

Bangladesh reported 3,141 new cases and 32 more deaths from the coronavirus on Sunday, raising its total caseload to 87,520, including 1,171 fatalities. Nasima Sultana, additional director general of the Health Directorate, said a junior minister from PM Sheikh Hasina's cabinet and a former health minister and close aide to Hasina both died of the virus on Saturday. State-run hospitals are overwhelmed, with many critical Covid-19 patients being deprived of intensive care beds and ventilators.

China races to quash outbreak after new cases reach 2-month high

BEIJING

CHINA reported its highest daily number of new coronavirus cases in months on Sunday, triggering fears of a second wave of infections.

The shock resurgence in domestic infections has rattled China where the disease emerged late last year but had largely been tamed through severe restrictions on movement that were later emulated across the globe.

It also gives a bleak insight into the difficulties the world will face in conquering COVID-19, coming as many hard-hit European countries have seen an encouraging drop in contagion and prepare to welcome visitors from elsewhere on the continent.

Of the 57 new cases logged by Chinese authorities, 36 were domestic infections in Beijing linked to a wholesale food market.

Beijing has raced to quash the new outbreak, carrying out mass testing, issuing travel warnings, closing the market, deploying paramilitary police and putting nearby housing estates under lockdown.

More than 10,000 have already been tested in the area, with another eight cases diagnosed on Sunday.

"I went to Xinfadi market, so I want to confirm that I am not infected," 32-year-old Guo said as she queued at a stadium for a test.

Workers in protective suits direct people who were either living near the Xinfadi market or visited it to get a nucleic acid test in Beijing on Sunday | AFP

Virus isn't weakening

"No one had any illusions that the problems were over," WHO deputy director Ranieri Guerra said.

"It means the virus hasn't lost its infectiousness, it isn't weakening... Such micro-outbreaks were inevitable, but they are limited in time and space," he said. *AFP*

Why does US want to move troops out of Germany?

After more than a year of thinly-veiled threats to start pulling US troops out of Germany unless Berlin increases its defense spending, President Donald Trump appears to be proceeding with a hardball approach, planning to cut the US military contingent by more than 25%

LEADERS ALARMED

- Trump's decision was not discussed with Germany or other NATO members, and Congress was not officially informed — prompting a letter from 22 Republican members of the House Armed Services Committee urging a rethink, especially with regard to Russian "aggression"

ALL THIS FOR FORT TRUMP?

- Trump indicated last summer that he was thinking of moving some troops from Germany to Poland, telling Poland's President Andrzej Duda during an Oval Office meeting: "Germany is not living up to what they're supposed to be doing with respect to NATO, and Poland is"
- Duda has been trying to woo more American forces, even suggesting Poland would contribute over $2 billion to create a permanent US base — which he said could be named "Fort Trump." In the current plan, at least some Germany-based troops are expected to be shifted to Poland

Poland meets its 2% of GDP spending obligation towards NATO. Germany does not. We would welcome American troops in Germany to come to Poland

US Ambassador to Poland Georgette Mosbacher tweeted in June 2019

MILITARY PRESENCE

Source: Deutsche Welle, US Army, US embassy in Poland

34,500 US troops

1.4% of GDP is Germany's defense spending

WHAT U.S. TROOPS ARE DOING IN GERMANY

- American troops are not there for Germany's defense, said retired Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges
- The base in Ramstein is not there for the US to defend Europe. It's there as a forward base for us to be able to fly into Africa, West Asia, said Hodges

DEFENSE BUDGET

- Poland may spend more as a percentage of GDP, but in dollar terms Germany committed nearly $54 bn last year — NATO's third-largest budget after the US and Britain — while Poland spent slightly less than $12 bn

US troops 4,500 | 2% of GDP is Poland's defense spending

Text: AP

S Korea urges North to uphold peace agreements

SEOUL

SOUTH Korea on Sunday convened an emergency security meeting and urged North Korea to uphold reconciliation agreements, hours after the North threatened to demolish a liaison office and take military action against its rival.

There's concern that North Korea could turn to provocation to bolster its internal unity and wrest outside concessions as nuclear talks with the United States remain deadlocked. Observers say North Korea desperately needs sanctions relief in the face of harsh US-led sanctions and the coronavirus pandemic.

South Korea's national security director, Chung Eui-yong, held an emergency video conference with ministers in charge of security and military generals on Sunday morning to discuss the latest situation on the Korean Peninsula and the government's possible steps, the presidential Blue House said in a statement.

The Unification Ministry, which handles relations with North Korea, later said that both Koreas must strive to abide by all agreements they have reached. The Defense Ministry said separately it closely monitors North Korea's military and maintains a firm military readiness.

On Saturday night, Kim Yo Jong, the influential sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, warned that Seoul will soon witness "a tragic scene of the useless North-South liaison office (in North Korea) being completely collapsed." *AP*

2018 peace deals

A end to the deals would allow North Korea to send ships across the disputed sea boundary, float down mines on a border river or take other provocative steps at the border area

TODAY'S STOCK PICK

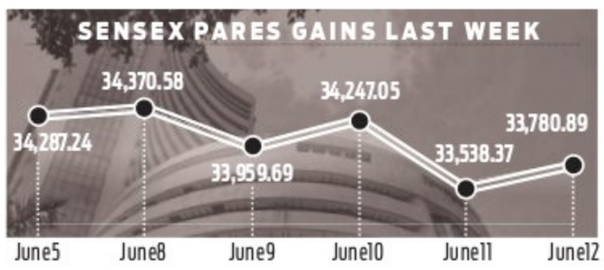
Current Price ₹571

Target Price ₹615

HCL Tech: HCLT's exposure to deeply troubled verticals (e.g. Energy, Travel, Transportation, Hospitality, Retail, etc.) is lower than peers. Higher exposure to IMS (~37% of revenue) comprising larger share of non-discretionary spends offers better resilience in the current context. We expect it to better navigate the current crisis and emerge stronger due to expected increase in enterprise demand for digital services.

— Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd

Disclaimer: The views and recommendations made above are that of the individual analyst or broking company, and not that of **TNIE.**



EXPRESS READ

PRICE DISCOVERY

INDIA TO GET ITS MAIDEN GAS TRADING PLATFORM

India will, on Monday, get its first natural gas trading platform which will help in local market price discovery through transparent demand-supply matching. According to officials, Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan is expected to launch the Indian Gas Exchange (IGX). The IGX will will feature multiple buyers and sellers trading in spot and forward contracts at designated physical hubs.

CAPITAL

FPIs INVESTED ₹20,574 CR SO FAR IN JUNE 2020

Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) have pumped in a net ₹20,574 crore into the Indian capital market in June so far amid increasing inflows into emerging markets due to high liquidity. As per latest depositories data, FPIs invested a net ₹22,840 crore in equities but pulled out ₹2,266 crore from the debt segment between Jun 1-12. This is a cumulative inflow of ₹20,574 crore.

If you still have a steady income, try to continue investing through SIPs; Staying invested and riding through this severe downturn may prove to be a successful bet years down the line

MANAGING MONEY IN TIMES OF TURBULENCE

AMIT BANDRE

FAMILIES INCREASE CASH SAVINGS

13%

of household financial savings were in the form of cash at homes as of March 2020, according to the RBI's quarterly review of household finances

Over 50%

household financial savings lie in commercial bank deposits as of the end of March 2020

RAJAS KELKAR

The world is divided between those who have money and those who do not. Sad, but true. The solution in turbulent times is simple for those who do not have much. They have to find work and earn more to meet living expenses.

Those with money are not safe either. Uncertainty ahead can keep you awake all night. Managing your money and expenses in the context of a dwindling income can take a toll on you.

Indian households are relatively new to financial assets in comparison to the United States or other wealthy countries. The interplay of economic and financial market cycles can get unnerving to most of you. As economies around the world stare at a contraction, financial markets around the world are volatile.

Gold prices are soaring, and stock markets are volatile but rising at the same time. Investing can get confusing. If everyone is panicking, only gold should rally. However, a lot of money is chasing top company shares around the world.

In the context of the uncertainty that lies ahead, households in India are likely to conserve money. A quarterly review of household finances published recently by the Reserve Bank of India reveals a lot more.

The study finds that as of March 2020, over half of the household financial savings lie in commercial bank deposits, and another 13% is in cash at home. Effectively, two-thirds of the household savings are found in money or bank deposits. Just over 23% goes to insurance and about 7% to mutual funds.

A key highlight from the RBI study is that households in India continue to rely heavily on the banking sector for borrowing and investing their surpluses. That is despite a steady decline in the share of bank deposits.

The study observes that deposits with the banking system typically contract in the first quarter of a financial year that starts in April and expand in the last quarter of the fiscal year that ends in March. However, financial assets of households are likely to see a spike due to the lock-down in the first quarter to June 2020 and reduced consumption. But these financial savings could taper off if the economy takes a long time to recover and people do not have a credible income source. Right there, you have to make some crucial decisions.

What it means

The RBI quarterly study matters as it gives us an insight into savings and investing habits. The preference for bank deposits indicates a risk aversion in general. People do not want to take risks. "COVID-19 related uncertainties, have resulted in an outflow from mutual funds and a flight to currency holdings," the report said. At the same time, it predicts that a standstill activity in the construction sector could mean households moving funds to financial assets instead of physical.

There is a significant drop in the money flowing into equity assets. In May 2020, mutual funds witnessed a net inflow (net of purchases and redemptions) of ₹5,260 crore. The six-month average was just over ₹7,000 crore, according to the data from the Association of Mutual Funds in India. It is the lowest inflow of money in 2020 thus far.

What you should do

If you still have a steady income, you may want to continue investing through systematic investment plans. You can add more money to your monthly SIPs as you may save more due to the lock-down. If you are uncertain about your future income, you may want to take a look at your savings. You will keep more money in cash than those who have an income. Since your expenses would be lower than earlier, you may want to try keeping your SIPs going as much as possible. If you have accumulated gold over the years as an investment, you may want to convert that into cash for your expenses and investment obligations over the next six months. That is assuming you have uncertainty in earning a monthly income. Staying invested and riding through this severe downturn may prove to be successful years down the line.

(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

EQUITY TALK

Arbitrage funds becoming preferred fund parking spaces

ASHOK KUMAR

FINANCIAL ADVICE

ASHOK KUMAR
heads LKW-INDIA. He can be reached at ceolotus@hotmail.com

THE series of adverse events in the Debt Mutual Fund space that culminated for the time being with the Franklin Templeton fiasco, has led to all round suspicion about the space. Ridiculous as it sounds, there is now no dearth of retail investors who swear that debt mutual funds are riskier than their equity counterparts. Their belief is that equity funds invariably recover over time, while debt funds that take a hit, do not. An erroneous view perhaps, but one that has gained currency of late.

It is against this backdrop that Arbitrage Funds have outscored Liquid Funds as the preferred parking space for idle or earmarked short term funds. They basically leverage the price differential in the cash and derivatives market to generate returns. The returns are dependent on the volatility of the asset. It takes advantage of the price differences between current and future securities to optimise returns.

Along with volatility, certain other factors also impact the performance of such Funds. These include interest rates, number of stocks in physical settlement, FII participation, industry size and the number of stocks in the Futures & Options (F&O) segment.

Furthermore, Liquid Funds held for less than three years attract the maximum marginal tax rate of 30 per cent while Arbitrage Funds held for less than a year attract a 15 per cent tax rate. Now, if the returns converge, it is pretty clear which product is the more efficient, net of tax, especially for High Networth Individual (HNI) investors.

While arbitrage funds, owing to its being hybrid in nature, are usually a safer bet for risk-averse individuals as compared to pure equity funds, it is prudent to review one's holdings in these funds periodically, as its returns are dynamic in nature.

Three funds from this space that are currently faring well are Tata Arbitrage Fund, Edelweiss Arbitrage Fund and L&T Arbitrage Fund.

- **Tata Arbitrage Fund** had an AUM of ₹1,619 crore as on May 29, 2020. Its asset allocation was around 66 per cent in equities, 9 per cent in NCDs and rest in Money Market Instruments. Its top three sectoral exposures include Consumer Non-Durables, Financials and Pharmaceuticals. This fund has delivered a return of 1.65 per cent over the last 3 months.

- **Edelweiss Arbitrage Fund** had an AUM of ₹3,569 crore as on May 29, 2020. Its asset allocation mix was around 66 per cent in equities, 30 per cent in Debt and 4 per cent in Cash and other Receivables. Its top three sectoral exposures were in Pharmaceuticals,Consumer Non-Durables and Software. This fund has delivered a return of 1.58 per cent over the last 3 months.

- **L&T Arbitrage Fund** had an AUM of ₹763 Crore as on May 29, 2020. Its asset allocation mix was 68 per cent in equities, 22 per cent in Debt and the rest in Cash and equivalents. Its top three sectoral exposures are in Financial Services, Consumer Non-Durables and Pharmaceuticals. This fund has delivered a return of 1.44 per cent over the last 3 months.

Clearly then, Arbitrage Funds are beginning to occupy the idle fund parking space. At least, for now.

EASY CREDIT

The World Gold Council believes that the trend of increasing demand for gold loans will only continue. According Somasundaram PR, head of the WGC's Indian operations, since traditional banks are likely to exhibit greater risk aversion in the current context, gold loans provide a convenient route for mobilising money quickly

Gold loans back in fashion as bankers turn risk averse

ANURADHA SHUKLA @ New Delhi

SUBHASH Gupta used to work in a private company when the lockdown started and he wasn't paid for the next two months. While he was able to mobilise his savings to pay for his children's school fees, house rent and monthly expenses, his last resort to fulfill existing obligations was to request a personal loan.

But, with banks finally turning leery on extending personal credit, Gupta took his only remaining option: mortgaging household gold.

"I approached many banks for a personal loan, but with no salary slip for the last three months and ₹5,000 balance, they were reluctant. But, it took me just two days to get an instant gold loan. It was a major relief, " he said.

He is just one among the thousands of cash-strapped individuals who are beginning to mortgage gold to make ends meet, a reason why gold finance companies like Muthoot Gold continue to do brisk business.

According to George Alexander Muthoot, MD, Muthoot Finance, the company expects its gold loan business to rise up to 15 per cent this financial year. "Gold loans are the easiest and quickest loan to avail for working capital requirements. Seventy-five-per cent of our customers are small shopkeepers, traders and small businessmen," Muthoot told media.

Even traditional banks, with all their focus on MSMEs and now highly risk averse towards individual lenders, are not shying away from extending gold loans. Many, in fact, are offering highly diversified gold loan options and competitive interest rates.

The loans are available for tenures from three months to 24 months and start at as low as ₹10,000 in rural regions and ₹25,000 in urban areas.

Even public sector lender State Bank of India is currently offering gold loans up to ₹20 lakh and sources in some branches claim that gold loan demand has gone up by 25 per cent, primarily in rural areas.

"Borrower profiles include mid-size farmers, small shopkeepers, dealers," a senior SBI official said on condition of anonymity. With overall household finances expected to worsen, experts expect gold loan demand to continue rising even as overall lending growth is expected to hit a multi-decade low of 0 to 1 per cent, according to credit rating agency Crisil.

VIL PAYS ₹103 CR INTEREST TO FRANKLIN TEMPLETON MF

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

Franklin Templeton Mutual Fund on Sunday said Vodafone Idea Ltd has made an interest payment of about ₹103 crore and that the amount will be distributed among investors in proportion to their holdings in the segregated portfolios.

Six FT schemes had invested in VIL: Ultra Short Bond Fund, Low Duration, Short Term Income Plan, Credit Risk Fund, Dynamic Accrual Fund, and Income Opportunities Fund.

On January 24, Securities issued by Vodafone Idea in the schemes had beene segregated from the total portfolio. Segregated portfolios are created to separate distressed, illiquid and hard-to-value assets from other more liquid assets. The fund house—with ₹2,000 crore exposure in VIL—had also marked down investments in VIL securities to zero.

HEALTH INSURANCE RULES REVISED

Claims uncontestable if premium paid for 8 yrs

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

THE Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI), the insurance sector regulator, has come out with a large set of revised guidelines last week which seek to standardise the indemnity-based health insurance segment. Among the major new rules is a provision which says that insurers cannot contest the claims of any health insurance policy-holder who has continuously paid premiums for eight years.

Such provisions already exist in the case of life insurance policies, where insurers are not allowed to contest claims made on a life insurance policy once premiums have been paid for three years continuously.

"After completion of eight continuous years under the policy no look back to be applied... After expiry of the moratorium period (of eight years) no health insurance claim shall be contestable except for proven fraud and permanent exclusions specified in the policy contract," the IRDAI said. All policies, however, will be subject to all limits as per the policy contract.

The new rules for indemnity-based health insurance policies will be applicable on all products filed on or before Octover 1 this year. All existing policy contracts which are not in compliance with the new rules have to be mandatorily modified during renewal from April 1, 2021 onwards.

As for claims, the new rules will go into effect for all claims as per policy limits beginning April 1, 2021 onwards.

The measures are likely to provide considerable relief to policy-holders since they will not have to wait or worry whether their claims will be honoured as long as they have paid premiums for eight years--they are to be settled within the admissible limits of the medical insurance product without any contest from the insurer.

IRDAI has also prevented insurers from repudiating claims on the basis of fraud if the policy-holder can prove that there was no deliberate intention to suppress information.

The regulator introduced several other changes. For instance, in the case of claim settlement, an insurance company should either settle or reject a claim within 30 days from the receipt of the last required document. If there is a delay in the payment or settlement of a claim, the insurer is liable to pay interest to the policy holder from the date of receipt of the last necessary document, at a rate of 2 per cent above the bank rate.

Another important new norm is the provision on potability of policies, where the insured will have the option to port out to another insurer at least 45 days before, but not earlier than 60 days before, the date of renewal for the policy.

If the insured is presently and has been continuously covered without any lapses with, they will also get accrued continuity benefits. If the insurer is planning to increase premiums, the insured will now have to be informed at least three months in advance.

Sushant's unbelievable journey cut short: More

Former India stumper Kiran More, who trained Sushant Singh Rajput for the role of MS Dhoni in a blockbuster biopic, said an "unbelievable journey" had been cut short by the young actor's shocking death. "Shock and disbelief are the two words I can remember. We lost a lovely kid, a hardworking, educated and successful person."

Global updates

Norwich player tests positive for virus

LONDON: A Norwich player announced as testing positive for the coronavirus featured in a practice game at Tottenham the previous day ahead of the English Premier League resuming. The unidentified player was one of two new Covid-19 cases detected after 1,200 people were tested at the 20 clubs on Thursday and Friday. The league releases only anonymous data and no other club disclosed a positive test. Players and staff are being tested twice a week across the league.

Fate of US Open to be decided next week

LOS ANGELES: The fate of the US Open is set to be revealed next week when officials decide whether or not the tournament can go ahead as planned amid mounting unease among top players. The Covid-19 pandemic now has the Flushing Meadows fortnight in its crosshairs. With New York the hardest-hit city by the health crisis, the United States Tennis Association has been scrambling to come up with a plan that allows the tournament to be staged.

NRL match postponed over coronavirus fears

SYDNEY: A match in Australia's National Rugby League on Sunday between the Sydney Roosters and Canterbury Bulldogs has been postponed over fears a Bulldogs player may have been exposed to the coronavirus. Prop Aiden Tolman has a child at the Laguna Street Public School in Sydney at which a staff member has tested positive. Tolman was tested, which came back negative, meaning the match provisionally postponed until Monday will now go ahead.

20+

MESSI IS THE FIRST PLAYER TO SCORE 20-PLUS GOALS IN 12 STRAIGHT LA LIGA SEASONS.

LIONEL MESSI
FOOTBALL | BARCELONA

It was normal service as Lionel Messi returned with one goal and two assists. The Catalans played their first match since a 1-0 win over Real Sociedad on March 7. Against Mallorca on Saturday night, it was like the Argentine did not stop playing as he was at his incisive best. The 4-0 win meant Barcelona extended their advantage over Real Madrid to five points.

STARS ALIGN

Quite a few of the world's most popular sportspersons emerged from the wilderness to compete in different events this weekend. A look at them...

CRISTIANO RONALDO
FOOTBALL | JUVENTUS

The Portuguese star took to the field on Friday night, against Milan in the second leg of Coppa Italia semifinal. Even though the 35-year-old, who has struck 21 league goals so far this season, missed a penalty, the Turin giants advanced to the final on the away-goal rule. They will face Napoli in the final on June 17.

NOVAK DJOKOVIC | TENNIS

The World No 1 played two singles matches in Adria Tour, a charity exhibition event that is been hosted across three nations by him. After beating Viktor Troicki, he lost to Filip Krajinovic, in Belgrade. The second leg of the tour is in Croatia next weekend. The ties saw 4,000 fans in attendance. The Montenegro leg of the event has been scrapped.

RORY MCILROY | GOLF

The World No 1 is tied ninth after the third round of Charles Schwab Challenge, the first event on PGA Tour since the restart. The 31-year-old's last competitive meet was Arnold Palmer Invitational in the first week of March. US' Xander Schauffele is on the top of the leaderboard (-4), along with compatriot Gary Woodland and South Africa's Brandon Grace.

AP

RANJI FOCUS

Conclave for discussing domestic season plans

VENKATA KRISHNA B @Chennai

BCCI will hold its annual cricket conclave involving various stakeholders in the coming weeks to decide on the upcoming 2020-21 domestic season. While such meetings usually take place in May or June, the ongoing pandemic has not made it possible.

The concept, with a focus on the domestic tournament, involved only the captains and coaches of first-class teams, but over the last couple of years, it has seen participation from the support staff of men's and women's senior sides. With the BCCI set to introduce standard operating procedure (SOP) that needs to be followed, one understands that this time the sessions will take place separately.

The interaction of captains and coaches gathers more importance as there are decisions that are to be taken with regard to the format of the Ranji Trophy for this season alone. There are indications that the tournament will be held in the zonal category with the top-placed team qualifying for the knockouts. It seems the safest option as it reduces travelling.

However, it might turn out to be a logistical nightmare as far as the Plate group is concerned. While the majority of the teams in the group come from the Northeast, the presence of Pondicherry, Chandigarh, Bihar and Uttarkhand (demoted from Elite Group C) makes it a tricky proposition.

"Even if one includes these teams alongside the Elite teams in their respective zones, there will be imbalance in the number of matches each zone plays. Considering most of these teams don't have a home venue, one has to find ways to plan the season ahead," one of the officials involved in the process said.

Zonal structure for Ranji Trophy isn't new but it was done away with since it didn't create an even playing field. The early signs that emerge from BCCI corridors suggest that the season will be curtailed especially given the number of matches involved across all age-groups. While the 2018-2019 season had 2024 matches across all formats, last season had 2036 matches.

"Although it's too early to say what holds in store, one can expect the season to be curtailed. For instance, age-group tournaments like CK Nayudu Trophy, Cooch Behar Trophy might be hit because you don't want to risk the juniors. Even with regards to senior men's domestic fixtures, at least a couple of tournaments may be cancelled," the official added.

While India's domestic season begins towards September end, it looks far-fetched this year. And if the IPL does get slotted in October-November, then the season's start might be delayed unless the BCCI wants a clash of tournaments.

"The best players will be in IPL if that happens. It will not be a good advertisement for domestic cricket. Since there is uncertainty all around at the moment, it is hard to say now," the official said.

Rugby training on, but with minimal contact

ASHOK VENUGOPAL @Chennai

WITH lockdown relaxations kicking in and allowing sportspersons to train, the nation's rugby players too have started practising. Despite not being able to hit the ground since March, they have made use of technology to keep in touch with the game.

"There are lot of courses and seminars being conducted by Rugby India," said Tamil Nadu Football Rugby Union (TNFRU) secretary general Senthil Thyagarajan.

"Several senior players from Tamil Nadu have been undergoing certificate courses for coaching and match-officiating. Other programmes too kept the players in touch with the game."

"Indian Rugby has articulated Phase 1 training for now. That involves individual, strength and game-skill training. So far, Tamil Nadu players have limited themselves to gym work and strength training." Phase 1 involves training sans physical contact.

Despite things opening up slowly, the Indian rugby fraternity too is keeping a close eye on when the sport will make its competitive return.

"We are seeing closed-door practice being held in France. Probably after September, we could see the European season commence. In India too it is likely to start around the same time."

Police and Services team and those from various embassies in the country used to play each other on a regular basis. Now clubs too take part in events and practice regularly. "Lot of players from clubs in the city practised regularly before lockdown at several beach pockets, including Kottivakkam, Thiruvanmyur and Besant Nagar. Tamil Nadu's state team and Police side generally practice at Patrician College. Facilities for training and practice are there in the city and equal to those anywhere in the country."

Several players from Tamil Nadu have made a mark at the international level. "A Venkatesan and S Saran Raj are the two men's international players from the state who have done well in the recent past. V Anitha, an athlete from MOP Vasihnav College, took part in last year's Asian Sevens in Odisha. Once the situation improves, we have lined up events for players."

> **Several senior players from Tamil Nadu have been undergoing certificate courses for coaching and match-officiating. Other programmes too kept the players in touch with the game. Indian Rugby has articulated Phase 1 training for now. That involves individual, strength and game-skill training.**
>
> Senthil Thyagarajan, TNFRU secetary general

Clueless about restart, Khade mulls quitting

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN @Chennai

VIRDHAWAL Khade says he will give himself a month before taking a final call on his swimming career.

The Olympian is having a hard time dealing with the fact that the country's elite swimmers haven't been given permission to use swimming pools, so he might take this call. "No news or communication of any sorts for being able to start swimming again," he tweeted.

"Wish swimming was treated the same as other sports in India. Almost three months since the swimmers in India entered the pool. If other competitive athletes can follow social distancing while training, competitive swimmers can do the same as well. I hope other Olympic swimming prospects don't consider retiring because of this."

Later on Sunday, Khade, when speaking to this daily, explained the reason for the two tweets. "I spoke to Nihar sir (coach Nihar Ameen) and he has asked me to give it another point. So I will take a call after the next month."

Considering most athletes have returned to training, he says 'it's not fair' that swimmers have not been given permission to do the same. "We have asked the sports ministry but we haven't received any word yet. Nihal sir also spoke to the PPBA (the Prakash Padukone Badminton Academy) where badminton and cricket training has resumed. So why hasn't swimming been restarted? It's just not fair."

Considering the Olympics is next year, the Maharashtra lad is itching to get his feet back in the water but doesn't hold out much hope. "The federation has already informally said that events may not happen for sometime. I think the swimming scene may be dead for (the next few months). I am having a tough time dealing with the uncertainty."

The only elite Indian swimmer to have resumed training is Sajan Prakash, who stayed put in Phuket. The others, including Khade and Srihari Nataraj, have been forced to improvise (land-based exercises).

But, as a swimmer, land-based exercises don't do much. The 28-year-old explains. "Swimming is such a different sport because we can't do much without being allowed access to the pool. Athletes from other sports can still do some relatable training, something we cannot do."

If the status quo continues, Khade, who is currently fighting the pandemic as an officer of the Maharashtra government, may leave the sport behind. "There is no clarity at this point and I don't what to focus on. I have had a conversation with my parents as well... I will take a final decision within a month's time."

Boost for racing as practice resumes at MMRT

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chennai

AFTER being a silent witness to the chaos that was enveloping the world around it, the Madras Motor Racing Track (MMRT) finally saw the return of a semblance of normalcy.

Sunday saw the first pay and practice session at the track since the Covid-19 outbreak paralysed sporting activities the world over. Various vehicle manufacturers had reportedly been testing at the facility for a few days but this was the first time that sporting practice had resumed at the venue.

This newspaper had reported earlier how the day was going to be split into two sessions — one for bikes and the other for cars — and how track officials were planning to stick to every regulation mandated by the central government. Among the racers who took to the track on the day were bikers from the Honda Racing Academy. Vicky Chandhok, former Federation of Motor Sports Clubs of India (FMSCI) president and current vice president of the Madras Motor Sports Club (MMSC) which operates the MMRT, said that everything went as planned. "Things went really well," Chandhok said. "We had twenty four bikes and ten cars. It went like clockwork. Everybody stuck to the rules. There were no additional vehicles or no support staff. Everyone brought their own handwash and sanitisers even though we have provided them as well."

Chandhok said that ensuring participants stuck to the regulations wasn't hard. "We had been a sport controlled by regulation anyway, and this was an extension. I think it was encouraging. We are looking forward to having more and more pay and practice programmes. And then we can start active racing."

A worker disinfects one of the participant's bike at MMRT in Irungattukottai, Chennai, on Sunday. According to MMRT official, a total of 24 bikers were present during the session

EXPRESS READ

Harikrishna second in online chess meet

CHENNAI: Indian Grandmaster P Harikrishna finished second in the Sharjah online chess championship with a score of 6.5 points after losing the final round to Polish GM Radoslaw Wojtaszek. Former world rapid champion Shakhriyar Mamedyarov of Azerbaijan won with 7.5 points from 10 rounds. Harikrishna pocketed $2,250 for his effort.

Bayern one win away from Bundesliga title

BERLIN: Bayern Munich moved to within just one win of an eighth straight Bundesliga title as a late Leon Goretzka goal sealed a 2-1 win over Borussia Moenchengladbach at the Allianz Arena. Teenager Joshua Zirkzee put Bayern ahead before Benjamin Pavard's own goal levelled for Gladbach, but Goretzka netted the winner with four minutes remaining.

Mertens' record strike fires Napoli to final

ROME: Dries Mertens fired Napoli to the Italian Cup final on Saturday after netting the goal which gave his side a 2-1 aggregate semifinal win over Inter Milan and made him the club's all-time top scorer. Napoli will face Juventus in Wednesday's final in Rome thanks to Mertens, who slotted home his 122nd goal for Napoli four minutes before half-time.

ONLINE PLATFORM

Chess ace Ganguly makes new move, to launch YouTube channel

ATREYO MUKHOPADHYAY @Chennai

PLAYERS from different disciplines playing unfamiliar roles and conducting live shows or online programmes is a new trend in India. Cricketers Ravichandran Ashwin, Jemima Rodrigues, Smriti Mandhana, footballer Sunil Chhetri, tennis player Purav Raja... it's a growing list. Surya Sekhar Ganguly is going to be the latest on it.

The Kolkata-based Grandmaster is launching his YouTube channel (youtube.com/use/Suryachess) on June 20. It will be a mix of serious conversations with renowned chess players, lessons in the game and casual chats.

The man Ganguly assisted during three victorious World Championship campaigns — Viswanathan Anand — will be the first to come to the show. As of now, four half-an-hour sessions with the five-time world champion are lined up.

A former Asian champion, Ganguly is not the first Indian chess player to have his own YouTube channel. But he is driven by the idea of producing something different. "Using my experience and whatever I have learnt, I want to make the interactions instructive. I have seen content on such platforms which is more casual than game-based. Other than a section dedicated to light conversation, I'd like to provide something in depth that people seriously into chess can appreciate."

New to this kind of activities, the 37-year-old is still getting used to the devices and technical matters of producing live shows online. He knows managing this might be tough once he goes back to the regular life of a chess player. As far as generating content to sustain the programme is concerned, Ganguly thinks he has enough to keep it going for about a year.

> **Using my experience and whatever I have learnt, I want to make the interactions instructive. I have seen content on such platforms which is more casual than game-based.**
>
> Surya Sekhar Ganguly, India GM

"Other than cameras and headphones needed for this kind of a programme, I have no investment. And I am not thinking of gaining from the number of views or subscribers either. It's just the urge to offer something more meaningful than what we generally see. My playing schedule will become a problem when that resumes. But as of now, I am willing to do it and there should be matter to sustain this for some time," said the player who won the national championship for a record six consecutive times, from 2003-2008.

COVID-19 MAY TRIGGER NEW DIABETES CASES

Scientists hypothesise that the novel coronavirus may alter glucose metabolism that may complicate pre-existing blood sugar disease

NEW STUDY

LONDON: Covid-19 may trigger the onset of diabetes in healthy people, and also cause severe complications in diabetic patients, according to an international group of 17 leading experts in the chronic condition.

Based on clinical observations made so far, the scientists, including Stephanie A Amiel from King's College London, said there is a bi-directional relationship between Covid-19 and diabetes.

In a letter published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, they explained that diabetes, on the one hand, is associated with increased risk of Covid-19 severity and mortality with 20 to 30 per cent of patients who died with the infectious disease reported to have diabetes.

On the other hand, the researchers said new-onset diabetes and atypical metabolic complications of pre-existing diabetes — including life-threatening ones — have been observed in people with Covid-19. However, they said it is still unclear how SARS-Cov-2, the virus that causes Covid-19, impacts diabetes.

Earlier studies had shown that the protein ACE-2 which binds to SARS-Cov-2 and allows the virus to enter human cells is not only located in the lungs, but also in organs and tissues involved in glucose metabolism such as the pancreas, the small intestine, the fat tissue, the liver and the kidney.

According to the researchers, by entering these tissues, the virus may cause multiple and complex dysfunctions of glucose metabolism.

The scientists believe it is possible that the novel coronavirus may alter glucose metabolism that could complicate the condition of preexisting diabetes or lead to new mechanisms of disease.

Based on previous research, they said virus infections can also precipitate type 1 diabetes — a chronic condition in which the pancreas produces little or no insulin.

> **Diabetes is one of the most prevalent chronic diseases and we are now realising the consequences of the inevitable clash between two pandemics**
>
> Francesco Rubino, Prof of Metabolic Surgery, King's College London

"Diabetes is one of the most prevalent chronic diseases and we are now realising the consequences of the inevitable clash between two pandemics," said Francesco Rubino, Professor of Metabolic Surgery at King's College London, in the UK.

However, given the short period of human contact with this new coronavirus, the exact mechanism by which the virus influences glucose metabolism is still unclear, the scientists said.

"We don't know whether the acute manifestation of diabetes in these patients represent classic type 1, type 2 or possibly a new form of diabetes," Rubino added.

"We don't yet know the magnitude of the new onset diabetes in Covid-19 and if it will persist or resolve after the infection, and if so, whether or not or Covid-19 increases risk of future diabetes," said Paul Zimmet, Professor of Diabetes at Monash University.

Assessing routinely collected clinical data can help examine insulin secretory capacity, insulin resistance and autoimmune antibody status to understand how Covid-19 related diabetes develops.

"We are calling on the international medical community to rapidly share relevant clinical observations that can help answer these questions," Zimmet said.

EXFILE

Closing our eyes on the sky

It's as if the Earth has closed its eyes, some scientists say. The coronavirus pandemic has forced astronomers in northern Chile to shut down the world's most powerful telescopes, running the risk of missing out on supernovas and other spectacles in space. We take a look at the Atacama Large Millimeter Array (ALMA) and how its closing down impacts science

STARRY WASTES

Scientists have been unable to take advantage of the pristine skies over Chile's Atacama desert

The novel cornavirus pandemic has shut down an array of world-renowned observatories across the world

This means humans will be oblivious to what astronomers call randomly occurring transitory phenomena, like Gamma-Ray Bursts (GRBs) or supernovas — lost forever to the starry wastes

> *Any GRB or supernova that goes off while we're shut down, we can't really observe it. We will have missed the opportunity to observe it because it catches on so fast and then fades away, so it's these opportunities that are lost*
>
> John Carpenter, astronomer

OBSERVATIONS ON HOLD

MARCH 18 2020

ALMA's (an observatory whose 66 antennae combine make it the world's most advanced radio telescope) operations have been on hold since mid-March

CHILE'S ASTRONOMICAL POWER

ALMA is just one of an array of observatories in Chile's arid north that comprise more than half of humanity's astronomical power

400 KM

away from ALMA is the Paranal Observatory and its Very Large Telescope is the most powerful one

5,000 METRES

The array has been constructed 5,000 metres above the sea level

2011: OBSERVATIONS BEGAN

2013

Year when the array has been fully operational

COST

$1.4 BILLION

It is the most expensive ground-based telescope in operation

REASON FOR CHOOSING CHILE

The high elevation and low humidity are crucial to reduce noise and decrease signal attenuation due to Earth's atmosphere

PARTNERSHIP

ALMA is an international partnership among Europe, the US, Canada, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and Chile

CRITITAL TIME TO OBSERVE BETELGEUSE

It's also a critical time to observe Betelgeuse, the giant red star in the constellation of Orion — the 10th brightest in the night sky — which has suddenly dimmed, prompting speculation that it could explode, though that could take decades

STALLED PROBES

- Astronomers chose the vast Atacama desert for its pristine atmosphere — there is little rain and low humidity year-round
- With telescopes shut down and antennas switched off, space watchers are instead focusing on processing the myriad data collected during long accumulated nights of observation
- Specialists have "several months" of work to keep them going until the pandemic passes and the planets are opened up to them again

> **It will be a significant delay. We observe approximately 4,000 hours every year at ALMA with the 12-metre antenna complex, so if the shutdown lasts six months, it is 2,000 hours of lost observation**
>
> Caludio Melo, ESO representative in Chile

Satellite that tracks sea is fit for launch

TESTS OVER

WASHINGTON: An international satellite that will collect the most accurate data yet on sea levels around the world, a key indicator of how Earth's warming climate is affecting the oceans, weather and coastlines, has completed all the tests ahead of its scheduled launch in November.

The tests for the Sentinel-6 Michael Freilich spacecraft — which is being built in Germany — began in November 2019 and they finished at the end of May this year, NASA said.

"The tests are complete and the preliminary results look good," said John Oswald, the mission's Deputy Project Manager at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Southern California.

The Sentinel-6 Michael Freilich spacecraft is a part of the Copernicus Sentinel-6/Jason-CS (Continuity of Service) mission, a joint US-European effort in which two identical satellites will be launched five years apart.

The spacecraft will join the Copernicus constellation of satellites that constitutes the European Union's Earth Observation Programme. Once in orbit, each satellite will collect sea level measurements down to the centimeter for 90 per cent of the world's oceans.

The data will add to almost 30 years of information gathered by an uninterrupted series of joint US-European satellites, creating an unprecedented 40-year sea level dataset.

Face ID and Touch ID lock for Messenger

FOR iOS ONLY?

SAN FRANCISCO: Social media giant Facebook is reportedly testing Face ID and Touch ID to make its iOS Messenger App more secure. When enabled, users will need to authenticate their identity using Face ID, Touch ID, or their passcode before they can view their inbox, even if their phone is already unlocked, reports *Engadget*.

"We want to give people more choices and controls to protect their private messages, and recently, we began testing a feature that lets you unlock the Messenger app using your device's settings. It's an added layer of privacy to prevent someone else from accessing your messages," a Facebook spokesperson was quoted as saying.

However, there are no clues to when Facebook is planning to make this new feature available to all. As of now, the feature is being tested and is in development.

NOSTALGIA

A family in a Volkswagen camper van watches the romantic musical film *Grease* (1978) at a temporary drive in cinema situated by the iconic Harland and Wolff cranes at Belfast shipyard, Northern Ireland, on Saturday | AFP

Scientists identify three Covid-19 disease phases

DEGREES OF SYMPTOMS

LONDON: Scientists have described three distinct phases of Covid-19 disease progression in patients, urging medical professionals to consider an individualised treatment approach for patients based on their symptoms corresponding to these stages of infection.

According to the scientists, including those from the University of Florence in Italy, three distinct phases of Covid-19 infection, with variable degrees of symptoms have been observed in people who test positive for the deadly disease. The review research, published in the journal *Physiological Reviews*, noted that each of these phases is characterised by a different type of biological interaction with the virus.

During the early infection phase (Phase 1), the researchers said the virus multiplies inside the body and is likely to cause mild symptoms that may be confused with a common cold or flu.

The second phase, according to the scientists, is the pulmonary phase (Phase 2), when the immune system becomes strongly affected by infection, and leads to primarily respiratory symptoms such as persistent cough, shortness of breath, and low oxygen levels.

Problems with blood clotting — especially with the formation of blood clots — may be predominant in Phase 2.

The third, hyperinflammatory phase, occurs when a hyperactivated immune system may cause injury to the heart, kidneys, and other organs. In this phase, the study noted that a "cytokine storm" — where the body attacks its own tissues — may occur.

While there may be overlap among the three stages of disease, the scientists said it is crucial to recognise each stage in order to tailor personalised treatment to patients.

In the review, the scientists suggested a personalised treatment plan with several medications and potential treatments. They added that in the early phase of infection, plasma containing antibodies from recovered Covid-19 patients have been found to reduce the amount of infectious viral particles in the body.

However, they cautioned that there are no drugs proven to treat Covid-19.

EXPRESS QUIZ

WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY

1 15 June was designated as 'World Elder Abuse Awareness Day', by the United Nations. Globally, Elder abuse is now recognised as a pervasive and escalating problem, urgently requiring the attention of policymakers, families and health care professionals. Which of the below is the main reason for elder abuse?

a) Abusers prefer to live independently and dislike for the older people's way of living
b) Property-related issues
c) Lack of resources to meet the needs of elders
d) All of the above

2 The World Health Organization defines elder abuse as: "a single act or repeated incidence or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust which causes harm or distress to an older person. A 2017 study estimated that 15.7% of people aged 60 years and older were subjected to some form of mistreatment. Which organisation initiated the WEAA Day?

a) World Health Organization
b) Rotary International
c) International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse
d) International Committee of the Red Cross

3 Likelihood of abuse is more in a situation where others manage older persons' money and where the elderly depend on others for their daily needs. While older people are affected by different types of abuse, the majority of victims are subjected to which among the below?

a) Physical abuse b) Psychological abuse
c) Financial abuse d) Sexual abuse

4 Elder abuse is generally under-reported as older people often hesitate or are afraid to report cases of abuse to family, friends or the authorities. Hence, prevalence rates are likely to be underestimated. Seventy per cent of abusers in India were educated up to the 12th standard. Identify the top five cities with maximum elder abuse as per HelpAge India's report?

a) Pune, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Ghaziabad and Patna
b) Raipur, Jalandhar, Jamshedpur, Kochi and Bhubaneswar
c) Mangaluru, Ahmedabad, Bhopal, Amritsar and Delhi
d) Bhilai, Gurgram, Salem, Surat and Dehradun

5 Globally, the number of elder abuse prevalence is projected to increase as many countries have rapidly ageing populations whose needs may not be fully met due to resource constraints. Which among the below are the people responsible or predominantly the perpetrators of elder abuse?

a) Sons and daughters-in-law
b) Medical caregivers, grandchildren
c) Domestic helpers, home attendants for elderly
d) Sons-in-law, caretakers at old age homes

KEY: 1D 2C 3B 4C 5A

Quizmaster **Sunil Dhavala** is a media entrepreneur. This alumnus of Indian Institute of Foreign Trade has held senior roles at Bertelsmann, National Geographic, Fox Broadcasting, Star TV and WPP.

RIVER POLITICS

Egypt blames Ethiopia for current stalemate over Nile dam

TENTERHOOKS

CAIRO: Egypt, Sudan and Ethiopia said on Sunday they would resume talks this week over a contentious, massive Nile dam, even as Egypt accused Ethiopia of trying to hinder progress on a resolution to disagreements over the project.

The construction of the $4.6 billion Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam on the Blue Nile, which is over 70 per cent complete and promises to provide much-needed electricity to Ethiopia's 100 million people, has been a friction point between Ethiopia, Sudan and Egypt, the three main Nile Basin countries.

The three countries have been holding talks for years, without reaching a deal. Those talks came to an acrimonious halt in February when Ethiopia rejected a US-crafted deal and accused the Trump administration of siding with Egypt.

Egypt's Irrigation Ministry on Saturday accused Ethiopia of bogging down the talks with a new proposal that it called "worrisome."

"The Ethiopian proposal aims to scrap all the agreements and understandings reached by the three countries during the negotiations spanning nearly a decade," said ministry spokesman Mohammed el-Sebaei.

Ethiopia wants to begin filling the dam's reservoir in the coming weeks, but Egypt has raised concerns that filing the reservoir behind the dam too quickly could significantly reduce the amount of Nile water available to Egypt.

After months of deadlock, Sudanese, Egyptian and Ethiopian water and irrigation ministers resumed talks last week, with observers attending from the US, the EU and South Africa, which is the current head of the African Union.

The Blue Nile flows from Ethiopia into Sudan where it joins the White Nile near Khartoum, to form the Nile River. Eighty-five percent of Nile waters originate in Ethiopia from the Blue Nile.

Egypt last week called for Ethiopia to "clearly declare that it had no intention of unilaterally filling the reservoir" and that a deal that was prepared by the US and the World Bank in February serves as the starting point of the resumed negotiations.

The US had crafted a draft deal in February and said the final testing and filling of the dam "should not take place without an agreement."

Past Egyptian presidents have warned that any attempt to build dams along the Nile will be met with military action, but President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, has ruled that out.

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MONDAY

DAY'S DIARY

Happy birthday

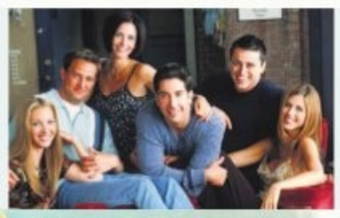
American actress Courteney Cox was born on this day in 1964 in Birmingham, Alabama. She is best known for her roles in *Friends* and *Cougar Town*

MODELLING CAREER

Cox was studying architecture when she was signed by the prestigious Ford Modelling Agency. She appeared on the covers of teen magazines & numerous romance novels

DEBUT

In 1984, she landed a small part in one episode of *As the World Turns* (1956) as a young débutante named Bunny. Cox's is perhaps best known as Monica Geller in *Friends*



HIGHEST PAID ACTRESS

In 2005, she and the other actresses on *Friends* became the highest paid TV actresses, earning $1 million for each episode of the final two seasons of the show

Karva 3 to bring Tilak and Meghana Gaonkar together

PG 4

'SUSHANT SINGH RAJPUT MADE A NAME AFTER A HARD STRUGGLE'

... says Bhaskar, who acted in *MS Dhoni - The Untold Story*, as he expresses shock at the Bollywood actor's demise on Sunday

• **A Sharadhaa**

I met Sushant Singh Rajput just for 15 minutes in 2017, during the making of the MS Dhoni biopic. But he came across as a very sweet person and a wonderful guy," recalled actor Bhaskar, while expressing his shock at the news of Rajput having committed suicide at his Mumbai residence on Sunday. Bhaskar, also known as Bhasi Bhaskar or 'Sixer', played a role in *MS Dhoni - The Untold Story*, which was directed by Neeraj Pandey and starred Rajput in the titular role. "This is really unfortunate," he said.

In the film, Bhaskar was a part of the South selection team, and insisted on selecting Dinesh Karthik over Dhoni. Though Bhaskar did not share screen space with the late Bollywood actor, he did interact with him and the cricketer Kiran More off screen. "Sushant and I are from Barry John Acting Studio, so we connected easily. He referred me to a book – *An Actor's Work on a Role*, which he said gave tips on the rehearsal process," shared Bhaskar, who has worked in Kannada films like *Veera Paramapare, Vaare Va, Aane Pataki,* and three Bollywood films, besides also being the vice-captain of the Karnataka Bulldozers in the Celebrity Cricket League.

According to Bhaskar, Rajput had insomnia, which was often discussed among the group who studied at Barry John. "He often mentioned to his friends that he could sleep for only 2 to 3 hours," says Bhaskar, whose next film is *Salaga*, directed by Duniya Vijay. He has also worked in *Genius* and *Naam Shabana*, starring Akshay Kumar and Tapsee Pannu. "Sushant was a fantastic guy and a balanced person, who made a name in the industry after a hard struggle," said Bhaskar.

Bhaskar with Neeraj Pandey (right), the director of *MS Dhoni - The Untold Story*

> **Both of us are from Barry John Acting Studio, so we connected easily. He referred me to the book *An Actor's Work on a Role*, which he said gave tips on the rehearsal process**
>
> **—Bhaskar,** actor

Sound check: Taking live streams up a notch

• **Muneef Khan**

Things seem to be looking up for musicians and other artistes in the city. A new performance venue is making the pandemic ridden scenario look slightly less bleak, thanks to its audio, lighting and video infrastructure, with the addition of facility of live streaming one's performance to a ticketed audience. Streamphony, a technology driven performance venue/cloud studio, has been founded by musician Debjeet Basu and Richard Andrew Dudley. The idea behind the venue located in Frazer Town came about when Basu realised the shortcomings of live streaming a performance from one's home space – inadequate sound, lighting and network issues.

On Saturday, Basu took to the stage along with his band Perfect Strangers India who performed a scintillating live set. "We were discussing what can be done for the live music scene that has taken a halt and a lot of musicians expressed their concerns of not being able to earn due to the current situation. So we came up with this venue where musicians can come and play their show which will be streamed to an audience via a ticketed streaming platform – Skillbox," says Basu. He adds that the space was formerly a jam pad and was altered with new equipment to recreate a professional setup. "We added a lot of elements with respect to lighting and sound, like a digital mixer and high quality drums in order to bring about the stage feel. It was a fairly big investment," he says.

Since opening its doors in early June, the venue has already witnessed performances featuring the likes of Cinema of Excess and Bruce Lee Mani. "In July , we are planning a family corporate day where all the artistes will perform from the studio. This includes musicians, comedians and the families joining the live stream. So the venue can open doors for dance, theatre etc, as well. It's all about supporting art," asserts Basu.

City-based musicians have also expressed relief with the venue resolving their sound and lighting issues. Thermal and A Quarter frontman Bruce Lee Mani, who recently performed at the venue for a corporate event along with his band, stated that a major area of relief comes with respect to sound. "We have done two gigs already which went really well. Earlier, sound was an issue. If we were to live stream in a home setup, unless you have a mixer, it doesn't sound very nice," says Mani, adding that syncing the sound to the audio and video while having a steady network connection was also an issue previously. "All of these are crucial to stream a performance without interruptions," he says.

Band Perfect Strangers perform at Streamphony for a ticketed live streaming on Saturday | **Meghana Sastry**

CITY READ

BU holds international webinar

Department of Performing Arts of Bangalore University celebrated the valedictory function of a three-day international webinar. During the inaugural function, Prof K R Venugopal, vice chancellor of Bangalore University, spoke about the continuous online programmes the department has been conducting since the corona crisis. Popular musician Par Moberg from Sweden also gave a presentation on the music of Sweden.

Home screening service for breast health

Niramai Health Analytix has launched their home screening service in Bengaluru, by bringing its AI-solution Thermalytix to doorstep of women. The service is aimed at women who would like to check their breast health for the first time, or are due for their annual preventive check-up. The test is appropriate for any woman aged above 18 years.

• **Muneef Khan**

Careless use of masks by the drivers, absence of screen partitions, rolled-up windows... While cab aggregators like Ola and Uber have sought to allay customers' fears through assurances regarding safety measures around COVID-19, commuters say their experience shows that there's a lot left to be desired

Shubam Sinha, a sales executive, said he has come across only a few cabs with protective screens. He added, "Advertisements show them following a five-step process but one cannot see the transparency here," he says. Another regular commuter says there is no consistency in the way the guideline are followed. "Out of the seven rides I have taken so far, I found only three drivers wearing a mask at all times. Most of them leave it hanging around their neck or chin. The seats still have cloth covers that are difficult to clean. Some drivers said they have been given masks and sanitisers by the firm, but protective screens have been installed only in company-owned vehicles," he said.

Manoj, a driver who works with both Ola and Uber, revealed that all that he has received is a mask and a bottle of hand sanitiser. "Since I have my own vehicle, I have to install the screen myself but that is difficult since my earnings have been low. Uber provides sanitisation only at the airport. But what about the other times?," he questioned.

According to an Uber spokesperson, "We recently introduced a checklist and a mandatory mask policy for both riders and drivers, pre-trip mask verification selfies for drivers, mandatory driver education around COVID-19 related safety protocols, and an updated policy where both riders and driver can cancel trips if they don't feel safe." This is in addition to distribution of 30 lakh masks and 2 lakh bottles of disinfectants and sanitisers for drivers free of cost. The spokesperson, however, gave no specific details about how many drivers have been provided the protective plastic sheet.

Ola has issued similar guidelines. In a statement, the company said, "We have mandated all vehicles to be fumigated every 48 hours across any of the 500 fumigation centres where driver-partners will also get their health checked. We have mandated installing a plastic screen between the passenger and the driver-partner sections across all our offerings." Commuters, however, point out that only a tiny percentage of vehicles seem to have the partitions in place.

CAUTION, BUMPY RIDE AHEAD

> **Since I have my own vehicle, I have to install the screen myself but that is difficult since my earnings have been low**
>
> **—Manoj,** driver with Ola and Uber

Rakesh (name changed on request), an auto driver with Ola, said the cost of the partition was borne by him and he still awaits reimbursement. Tanveer Pasha, president, Ola Uber Drivers and Owners' Association, said people continue to avoid using the service. "The advertisements differ from reality. Companies are in a hurry to resume services and drivers are in dire need to earn money. We have to fix immediate sanitisation alternatives that the driver can utilise after every ride but I don't see anything concrete being implemented," he added.

As fear continues to grip commuters, many still refrain from using the services. For techie Tushal Wilson, taking a cab is a complete no. "The guidelines aren't followed by everyone, and providing hand sanitiser isn't enough," he says.

Drivers say they have to bear the partition costs and have no money to do so

IT'S PLAY TIME

Learning stages

• **Monika Monalisa**

The city may have already started relishing Unlock 1.0 but things have not changed much for theatre enthusiasts. With no avenues for offline programmes, Bengaluru-based theatre group Indian Ensemble is now carrying out their yearly theatre training programme online. This is the second edition of the education programme, which is titled First Draft: An Idea Development Lab by Indian Ensemble.

"This is the first time we are going online and it's the need of the hour too. It's a huge step for us. Theatre is all about the expressing and being in the moment and it helps if you are teaching in person. We are also trying to figure out new ways to adapt to changing times," says Chanakya Vyas, artistic director of the company, which has carried out various training programmes in the past. Vyas adds that going online has worked in their favour since many theatre enthusiasts from outside Bengaluru too have taken interest in the programme. "We are getting queries from people in Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, etc. This wouldn't have been possible if we didn't go online," says Vyas, who has been part of the theatre group since 2015. Started in 2009, the group has performed several shows in India and abroad, apart from producing over a dozen plays in the last 10 years.

The last day to send in applications is June 25 but only a few students will be handpicked for the programme. "To apply, people have to submit their play ideas first. We will select the students on the genesis of the idea. The programme may not apply for someone who is already at an advanced stage," explains Vyas, adding that applicants must have some experience in the theatre space to get the context of the course. The six-month long programme will introduce students to the research that goes behind a play, while also involving collaboration with directors and presentations to propose an idea. "Last year, we had 6-7 guest lectures. But after a good response this year, we are doubling it to 13-15 guest lectures, which will take them through the practical side of writing a play," explains Vyas, who adds, "We had stopped rehearsals due to the lockdown but will soon release audio stories till our stage performances resume."

Participants at a session during the previous edition; Chanakya Vyas (inset)

SOUND BOARD

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If you've ever wanted to know about champagne, satanism, the Stonewall Uprising, chaos theory, LSD, El Nino, true crime and Rosa Parks, then look no further. Josh and Chuck have you covered.

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Every week, The Ringer's Andy Greenwald and Chris Ryan — longtime friends and pop culture addicts — break down the latest in TV, movies, and music.

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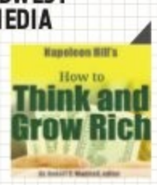
The Sadhguru Podcast is a spiritual, fast-paced show designed to help busy people learn and achieve anything in a fraction of the time.

- Spotify for free

THINK AND GROW RICH BY MIDWEST JOURNAL MEDIA



Twenty years of interviews with over 500 of the top world leaders — resulted in probably the all-time bestselling personal improvement book of the last two centuries. This podcast helps you to learn how to think and grow rich.

- Google Podcasts for free

THE MEDITATION PODCAST BY JESSIE AND JEANE STERN

The Meditation Podcast creates an extraordinary meditation experience for people in their everyday lives. Founded in 2006 by husband-and-wife duo Jesse & Jeane Stern, TMP uses guided meditations, binaural beats, mindfulness, and 20+ years experience in Healing Arts.

- Apple Podcast for free

BRIGHT SPOT

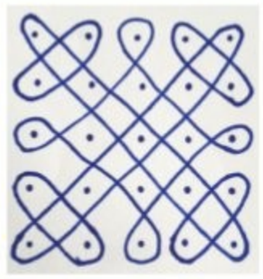
A PET'S BEST FRIEND

For the past 25 years, Thrissur resident Pradeep Payyoor has been providing shelter for stray animals — injured, disabled, and abandoned ones — in his house. He has received special veterinary training to treat those who are injured. Currently he has 43 pets. He purchased a mini taxi, exclusively to transport injured animals in special cages. Pradeep also sets aside around ₹20,000 exclusively for their food. He helps people across Kerala in rescuing dogs. Pradeep works closely in association with People For Animal Welfare Services, Thrissur, and had also received the membership of the Animal Welfare Board in 2016.

Source: The Better India

KOLAM

5*5 SIKKU



- Keep 5 dots each in 5 rows
- Then connect the centre dots of the last line on each side with a line and circle
- Connect the corner dots using a loop design as shown in the figure
- Now connect the remaining two dots of the corner again with a loop design
- You can add colours as you wish in the empty spaces

-by Sowmya Vijay

APPSMART

Mindhouse - Modern Meditation

An all-in-one app to practise mindfulness, Mindhouse recommends meditation tools based on your goals and proficiency.

- **Available on:** Android & iOS

CapCut

CapCut is a free all-in-one video editing app that helps you create incredible videos.

- **Available on:** Android

IRL - Social Calendar

Recently rebranded as "In Remote Life," here's your guide to livestreamed concerts, classes, lectures, and other digital happenings on Zoom, YouTube, Twitch, IG Live, and more

- **Available on:** Android & iOS

FIT BIT

PADAHASTASANA

(HAND UNDER FOOT POSE)

In Sanskrit, 'Pada' means 'foot,' 'Hasta' means 'hand' and 'Asana' means 'pose'. It is a standing forward fold and one of the 12 basic postures of Hatha yoga and the third pose of Surya Namaskar sequence. It reduces tamas, which means heaviness, in the body. It stimulates vata, which speeds up digestion and increases the light, airy energy in the body. It works on the second chakra where the energy body is located.

STEPS

- Stand straight and keep legs together and hands on the side of thighs.
- Inhale slowly and raise the hands straight and upwards over the head, touching biceps with ears. Keep elbows straight and turn palms forward.
- Fold at your lower back and keep bending the body forward and slowly exhale. Keep legs straight without bending the knees.
- Keep hands and back in a single line as you make a 90° angle with the upper body and legs.
- When bending forward, touch the abdomen with thighs and also touch the chest with legs.
- Hold this pose and breathe normally.
- Stay in this position for at least 15 to 30 seconds.
- Now, lift your forehead and then hands from the floor.
- Inhaling slowly, gradually start lifting the body up and stand straight.
- Exhaling slowly, bring hands back down.
- Take a few deep breaths and relax for some time.

BENEFITS

- Eliminates stress, fatigue and anxiety.
- Reduces problems in throat and nasal region.
- Improves blood circulation, balance, flexibility and posture of the body.
- Tones and energises the spinal nerves and muscles.
- Tones digestive organs. Ensures proper functioning of liver and spleen.
- Reduces bloating, gastric problems, constipation and indigestion.
- Removes abdominal fat. Gives a great stretch to thigh muscles. Helps increase height.
- Increases the strength in calf and thigh muscles. Enhances digestion and metabolism.

LIMITATIONS

- People with hypertension and heart problems should avoid it.
- Those who suffer from ulcers, hip injuries, vertigo, knee problems, abdominal hernia and sciatica must avoid it.
- People with lower back pains or spinal problems must avoid this.
- People with stress on the thigh, knees, calf and ankle should not put more effort.

– by N Elumalai, PhD scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

CLASSIC COMEBACK

DEVON KE DEV... MAHADEV

Lord Shiva is an ascetic. However, he falls in love with Sati, the granddaughter of Lord Brahma, and becomes a householder as their relationship shapes the universe.

- Cast: Mohit Raina, Mouni Roy
- Watch on: Star Plus
- Monday to Sunday at 9.30 pm

SHRIKANT

Raj Lakshmi nurses Shrikant to health when he is affected by plague. During a voyage to Burma, he meets Abhaya, who is abandoned by her husband.

- Cast: Farooq Sheikh, Irrfan Khan, Tiku Talsania, Mrinal Kulkarni
- Watch on: DD National
- Daily at: 3.30 pm

BUNIYAAD

A saga of an upper middle class Punjabi family from Lahore and its four generations spanning over 50 years from the 1920s to the 1950s with many interesting sub plots.

- Cast: Alok Nath, Anita Kanwar, Dalip Tahil
- Watch on: DD National
- Daily at: 10.30 pm

FLOP SHOW

Actor Jaspal Bhatti and his team of comedians present a satirical take on various societal issues through skits and sketches.

- Watch on: DD National
- Time: 6 pm every day

UPANISHAD GANGA

The show shares the knowledge of Upanishads explaining its meaning in the modern context through stories.

- Cast: Dwaraka Prasad
- Watch on: DD Bharati
- Daily at: 6 pm

CHANAKYA

The series is a fictionalised version of the life-history of economist, strategist and political theorist, Chanakya, who was also the royal advisor of King Chandragupta Maurya.

- Cast: Chandraprakash Dwivedi, Dinesh Shakul, Surendra Pal
- Watch on: DD National
- Daily at: 5 pm

POPULAR ON YOUTUBE

RAAJAKUMARA

An honest man overcomes various obstacles while trying to retain the purity of his character and fulfilling the duties towards his family.

- Cast: Puneeth Rajkumar, Priya Anand

EE BANDHANA

An old couple sacrifices everything so their children live a happy life. However, they are forced to separate and subjected to ill-treatment and disrespect in their children's homes.

- Cast: Vishnuvardhan, Jaya Prada, Ananth Nag

SHOURYA

Surya and his sister Vidya are orphans who are often mistreated by local ruffians. Years later, Surya grows up and becomes an honest police officer and sets off to find the killers of his guardian.

- Cast: Darshan, Madalasa Sharma, Avinash

NANBAN

Two friends set out to find a third friend from engineering college, who taught them how to be more than just victims of circumstances. During the journey, they recall their college memories.

- Cast: Vijay, Ileana, Srikanth, Jiiva

Scan this QR code to find out how your favourite celebs are coping with the lockdown.

WHAT'S ON TED TALKS

1 HOW TO MAKE FASTER DECISIONS BY PATRICK MCGINNIS

In a world of endless reviews and options, it's easy to become paralysed by indecision. Investor and writer Patrick McGinnis shares the dangers of FOBO — the fear of better options — and how to overcome it.

2 IMAGINATIVE SCULPTURES: HOW WE PERCEIVE REALITY BY ALICIA EGGERT

TED Fellow Alicia Eggert takes us on a visual tour of her work — from a giant sculpture on an uninhabited island in Maine to an installation that inflates only when people hold hands to complete an electric current. Her work explores the power of art to inspire wonder and foster hope in dark times.

3 THE GALACTIC RECIPE FOR A LIVING PLANET BY KARIN ÖBERG

Join space chemist Karin Öberg and learn how she scans the universe in search of this paradoxical chemical using ALMA, the world's largest radio telescope, to detect hotbeds of molecular activity and the formation of life-sustaining planets.

4 HOW MENOPAUSE AFFECTS THE BRAIN BY LISA MOSCONI

How exactly does menopause impact cognitive health? Sharing groundbreaking findings from her research, neuroscientist Lisa Mosconi reveals how decreasing hormonal levels affect brain aging , and shares simple lifestyle changes you can make.

5 GENDER EQUALITY AND FLUIDITY IN THE PHILIPPINES BY FRANCE VILLARTA

In much of the world, gender is viewed as binary: man or woman, each assigned characteristics and traits designated by biological sex. But that's not the case everywhere, says France Villarta. In this talk, he details the legacy of gender fluidity and inclusivity in his native Philippines — and emphasises the universal beauty of all people, regardless of society's labels.

NOW STREAMING

REGIONAL

GULABO SITABO (Hindi)

Two scheming men get caught up in a game of one upmanship, each one attracting other members to their clan and each one with an agenda of his own.

- Cast: Ayushmann Khurrana, Amitabh Bachchan
- Watch on: Amazon Prime Video
- Registration: ₹ 129 per month

JAB WE MET (Hindi)

Aditya, a heartbroken business tycoon, aimlessly boards a train to escape his depressing life. He meets Geet, a bubbly Punjabi girl, and gets pulled into her crazy life.

- Cast: Kareena Kapoor Khan, Shahid Kapoor
- Watch on: Amazon Prime Video
- Registration: ₹ 129 per month

RANAM (Malayalam)

Aadhi is pulled back into a life of crime when his former gang leader compels him to carry out another job. He soon meets Seema and falls in love with her, giving him a chance at redemption.

- Cast: Prithviraj Sukumaran, Isha Talwar, Rahman
- Watch on: Disney+Hotstar
- Registration: ₹ 399 per year

PRATI ROJU PANDAGE (Telugu)

A grandson, Sai, wishes to make the last few weeks for his dying grandfather, Raghu Ramayya, a time to remember. Since most of Raghu's children are too busy to visit him, Sai's gesture comforts him.

- Cast: Sathyaraj, Sai Dharam Tej, Rashi Khanna
- Watch on: Disney+Hotstar
- Registration: ₹ 399 per year

YAJAMANA (Kannada)

Krishna, the son-in-law of the village head, becomes the biggest enemy of Devi Shetty, a cruel gangster, when Devi decides to plunder the oil resources of the village and ruin villagers' livelihood.

- Cast: Darshan. Rashmika Mandanna, Tanya Hope
- Watch on: Amazon Prime Video
- Registration: ₹ 129 per month

All the streaming apps can be accessed on smartphones and smart TVs with Internet connection.

NANNA PRAKARA (Kannada)

Ashok (Kishore) plays a cop character & his wife Amrutha (Priyamani), a doctor. Ashok is handed the case of Vismaya Suresh (Mayuri), who is supposed to get married in a week to Suman (Arjun Jogi) but is burnt in a car accident.

- Cast: Kishore, Priyamani, Mayuri Kyatari
- Watch on: Amazon Prime
- Registration: ₹ 129 per month

THAMBI (Tamil)

Parvathy is elated when she finds out that her brother, Saravanan, who has been missing for 15 years, is in Goa. However, somebody has already hatched a plan to kill him.

- Cast: Jyotika, Karthi
- Watch on: Netflix
- Registration: ₹ 199 per month

ENGLISH/FOREIGN

CAPTAIN MARVEL

Amid a mission, Vers, a Kree warrior, gets separated from her team and is stranded on earth. However, her life takes an unusual turn after she teams up with Fury, a S.H.I.E.L.D. agent.

- Cast: Brie Larson, Samuel L Jackson, Gemma Chan
- Watch on: Disney+Hotstar
- Registration: ₹ 399 per year

BEGIN AGAIN

Gretta, a budding songwriter, finds herself alone after her boyfriend Dave ditches her. Her life gains purpose when Dan, a record label executive, notices her talent.

- Cast: Keira Knightley, Mark Ruffalo
- Watch on: Netflix
- Registration: ₹ 199 per month

BANA MASAL ANLATMA (Turkish)

Riza is a minibus driver universally loved by the folk of Surici, the neighbourhood of Istanbul where he was born and raised. Ayperi, on the other hand, is the outsider who will turn Riza's life upside down.

- Cast: Hande Doğandemir, Fatih Artman
- Watch on: Netflix
- Registration: ₹ 199 per month

MURDERS IN BATZ (French)

Manon, a young student of neurosurgery who funds her education by cleaning crime sites, meets Gregor Gourvennnec during a case and learns about his turbulent past. She helps him overcome his problems.

- Cast: Flora Bonaventura, Stephane Freiss, Francois Marthouret
- Watch on: Amazon Prime Video
- Registration: ₹ 129 per month

QUICK FIX

MANGO PHIRNI

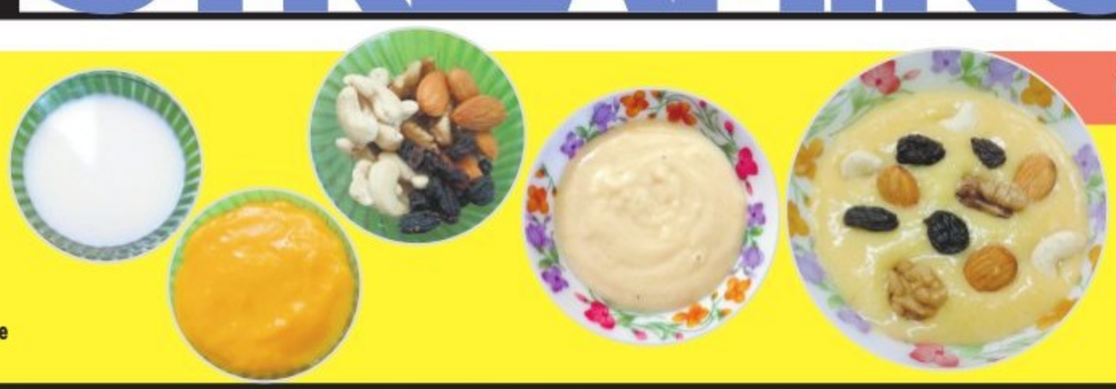
INGREDIENTS

Milk: 2 cups
Mango pulp: 1 cup
Sugar: 3/4 cup
Raw rice: 2 tsp (soaked in water)
Mixed nuts to garnish.

METHOD

- Heat the milk till it begins to boil.
- Grind the rice to a fine paste.
- Add the ground rice paste. Add sugar.
- Cook it on low flame for 5-7 minutes. Keep stirring so that lumps are not formed.
- Cook till you get a smooth creamy mixture. Remove from heat and allow it to cool.
- Add the mango pulp.
- Garnish with mixed nuts.

– Uma Murali, Coimbatore



What's cooking IN YOUR KITCHEN DURING THIS LOCKDOWN?

We are hungry for recipes with minimum ingredients and maximum flavours. Share your quick-fix with us, along with step-by-step photos, at cityexpresschn@gmail.com.

Weekend chills

How was your weekend? Actor Aindrita Ray had a lazy but excited one, spending time in her bed watching her latest series *Casino*, which is currently streaming online. Ray plays character called Camila in the series. The actor was so thrilled about the series that she also did a Q&A on her Instagram handle revealing details about her character. Shot in Kathmandu, the show also features Karanvir Bohra, Mandana Karimi and Sudhanshu Pandey.

RIGHT CLICK

Online classes, webinars, longer screen hours... health experts weigh in with tips that youngsters can follow

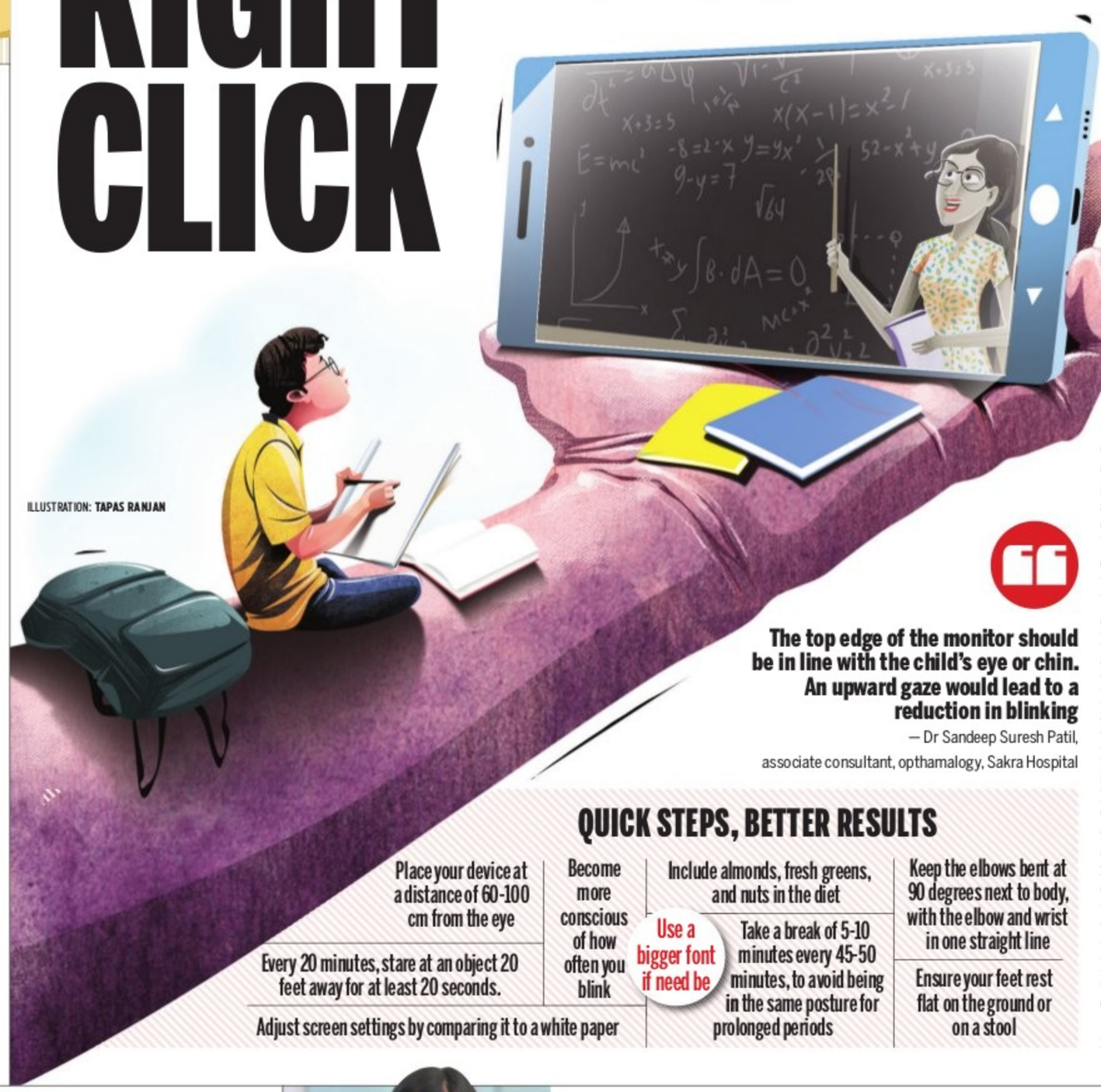


ILLUSTRATION: TAPAS RANJAN

The top edge of the monitor should be in line with the child's eye or chin. An upward gaze would lead to a reduction in blinking

— Dr Sandeep Suresh Patil, associate consultant, opthamalogy, Sakra Hospital

QUICK STEPS, BETTER RESULTS

- Place your device at a distance of 60-100 cm from the eye
- Every 20 minutes, stare at an object 20 feet away for at least 20 seconds.
- Become more conscious of how often you blink
- Use a bigger font if need be
- Adjust screen settings by comparing it to a white paper
- Include almonds, fresh greens, and nuts in the diet
- Take a break of 5-10 minutes every 45-50 minutes, to avoid being in the same posture for prolonged periods
- Keep the elbows bent at 90 degrees next to body, with the elbow and wrist in one straight line
- Ensure your feet rest flat on the ground or on a stool

Simran Ahuja

Back ache. Blurry vision. A stiff neck. Throbbing pain in the head. One would normally associate these problems with professionals who spend long hours in front of a computer screen. But without proper care, students, who are now attending a new academic year online, can also fall prey to such conditions. Medical experts say there are a few tips that students can incorporate in order to adjust to these changes in a healthy manner.

Eye see you

While choosing a gadget, the bigger the screen, the better. According to Dr Sandeep Suresh Patil, one should maintain a straight or downward gaze while looking at a screen. "The top edge of the monitor should be in line with the child's eye or chin. An upward gaze would lead to a reduction in blinking," says the associate consultant, opthamalogy, Sakra Hospital. Taking breaks to look away is key. "The switch causes the muscles to relax," says Dr Bhujang Shetty, eye surgeon and chairman, Narayana Nethralaya. Agrees Dr Sheetal Ballal, consultant, opthalmology, Manipal Hospital, Old Airport Road, who adds that adequate exposure to sunlight could also be an alternative. Students also have to be mindful of eye strain caused beyond online classes. Dr Ashwin Santosh Shetty, consultant, opthalmology, Aster CMI Hospital, says, "Even work breaks have turned into indulging in OTT platforms. This adds to eye stress."

Dark circles and puffiness may also be a consequence of eye strain and excess screen consumption, says Dr Sushant Shetty, head, medical operations, Services and Engineering, Kaya Ltd.

Sitting right

It may be tempting for a student to stay in bed while he attends a virtual class, but experts advise against this. The best option would be a comfortable chair, one that allows the child to sit in an upright position. "Place a pillow if you are unable to reach the back rest of the chair. If a child moves all the way back, the backs of their knees would touch the chair and if it is in a compressed situation for a long time, it may affect the nerves situated there,," points out Dr Umesh Srikantha, consultant, neurosurgery, head of spine services, Aster CMI.

Since excessive misuse of keyboard and mouse could cause wrist, elbow and finger injuries, physiotherapist Pooja Pandey Tripathi says, "The mouse should be just to the side of the keyboard so that the elbow does not have to leave the side of the body to reach for it."

Mind matters

With so many interactions going online, one might suffer from 'virtual burnout'. Dr Vinod Kumar says 80 per cent of any communication is non-verbal – an aspect that gets lost online. "So your brain works extra to understand the communication," says the psychiatrist and head, Mpower. The solution, he adds, is sticking to the basics – following a strict routine and establishing boundaries between study and play. "Parents need to lead by example. If a student sees their parent being disciplined, they'll follow suit," he says.

(With inputs from Vidya Iyengar)

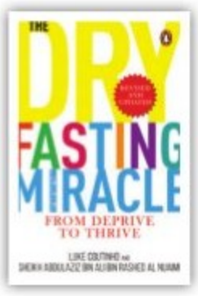
'Fasting doesn't have to suit every person'

Vidya Iyengar

Ever since Bollywood superstar Hrithik Roshan revealed his go-to fitness mantra – intermittent fasting – it has taken the internet by storm. And holistic lifestyle coach **Luke Coutinho**, who has been a proponent of the benefits of fasting, has now come out with his book, T*he Dry Fasting Miracle: From Deprive to Thrive (*Penguin Random House, ₹299 for paperback). The book has been co-authored with Sheikh Abdulaziz Bin Ali Bin Rashed Al Nuami of the Ajman royal family in the UAE, whose sister was treated for cancer by Coutinho, after which they became good friends, getting involved in various activities.

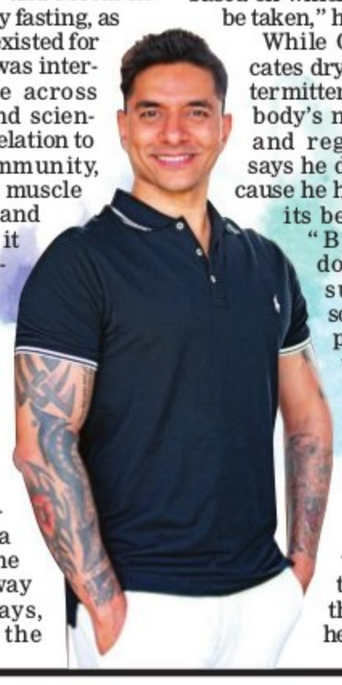
Back to basics

In the olden days, people ate early because there was hardly any light after sunset. Their next meal would only be after sunrise. This practice spread as a discipline due to its health and spiritual benefits. Today, it is called the dry fasting diet. Replicating it requires abstinence from all food and water for 12 or more hours.



At a time when immunity boosting is the buzzword, the book is meant to be a guide for anyone looking at lifestyle changes, hand-holding beginners to fasting and helping people understand how not to make it a fad or competition. With concepts like integrated fasting and circadian rhythm fasting, and aspects like fasting for athletes and bodybuilders having been introduced, Coutinho says, "It is more scientific and research-based. While dry fasting, as a concept, has existed for a long time, it was interesting to come across case studies and scientific papers in relation to fasting and immunity, cardiac health, muscle health, fertility and cancer, and how it makes chemotherapy more effective with fewer side effects, etc. We also were surprised at how a simple 12-hour fasting which is in alignment with our circadian rhythm is a powerful and the most natural way to fast," he says, adding that the book was to be released before Ramzan, but got delayed due to COVID.

Even as the fasting fad has caught the imagination of many, Coutinho emphasises that fasting, like nutrition, is customised and personalised. "While we have multiple cases of individuals who have managed their diabetes through a 360-degree lifestyle change, including fasting, it may not suit every diabetic. It depends on how often your sugar levels fluctuate, how advanced your diabetes is and other factors. Which is why it is so important to do what suits an individual. I recommend my clients try it and monitor their sugar or blood pressure levels, based on which a decision can be taken," he says.



While Coutinho advocates dry fasting and intermittent fasting for the body's natural healing and regeneration, he says he does so only because he has experienced its benefits himself. "But fasting doesn't have to suit every person. From my experience, it works provided it is done in an informed and mindful way by listening to one's body. Fasting allows our body's intelligence to take over and that knows best," he says.

Akanksha Chhabra

Stepping in to help

Monika Monalisa

We have always wanted to give something back to the society with what we love to do – making juttis," says Akanksha Chhabra, co-founder of Pastel and Pops, a city-based brand specialising in the traditional footwear. Chhbara and her sister and partner, Aarti Chhabra, have followed the same belief, to come up with a campaign called Labor of Love, wherein all the proceeds from the sale of their new collections will go towards helping the migrant workers.

The duo has launched four collections post lockdown, two of which came this month. "We decided to club it all together and put them under the Labor of Love tag to reach a larger number," says Akanksha, adding that all the juttis listed under the campaign come with a badge on their site. Unlike their other collections, these ones carry simpler designs and are made of printed fabric. So what makes their latest collection so special? "The starting price of our juttis is usually ₹2,300 but the new ones are priced at ₹2,000 per pair. It works both ways, as girls prefer subtle designs these days, and the price is also reduced," says Akanksha, whose client list include actors like Sonam Kapoor, Karisma Kapoor, Sara Ali Khan, Tapsee Pannu and Malaika Arora.

Aarti Chhabra

For the last four years, the siblings have also been working with Aahwahan Foundation, which has worked for the marginalised communities. "We had worked with them to give ration kits to migrant workers in Goripalya, Tyagrajnagar, etc. The ration lasted for seven days. But now we are working towards helping migrant workers with travel expenses for their journey to their native places," says Akanksha.

Admitting that their business has taken a hug hit due to the pandemic, she says they are slowly coping with the new normal. "Production was stopped for almost two months, and many of our karigars also went back home. Also, being located close to a contaminated zone, we didn't want to take chances either. But now we are back at work with all the precautions taken," says Akanksha, who co-founded the brand in 2015 along with her sister with an objective of redefining the grace and grandeur of the traditional juttis with a modern touch.

CITY READ

MSRIT ranked 59 in top 100 colleges

MS Ramaiah Institute of Technology (MSRIT) has been ranked 59 among the top 100 engineering institutions across the Country in 2020 as per the National Institutional Framework, MHRD. Established in 1962, MSRIT is ranked first among all the institutions affiliated to Visvesvaraya Technological University, Belagavi. The institute has also been accredited with grade A by National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC).Currently, the institute offers 13 UG and 15 PG programmes to students which are affiliated to Visvesvaraya Technological University.

ARE YOU GAME?
Anusha Ganapathi

IN GRAPHIC DETAIL

Alright everyone, here you go – the PS5 event review that you were all waiting for. There is a lot of ground to cover, so the next few paragraphs are going to read like a rap song. The event started with PS4 recaps – probably to remind us of the contrasting graphics that the PS5 will offer. GTA V extended version looks chill, plus PS owners are to get it for free. Safe to say that the only thing that is 'Wasted' is the opportunity for having a female lead. But there's hope for representation – the set- up for the sequel in game 1 is paid-off in a banging new trailer for Spider-man! Be a hero Miles!

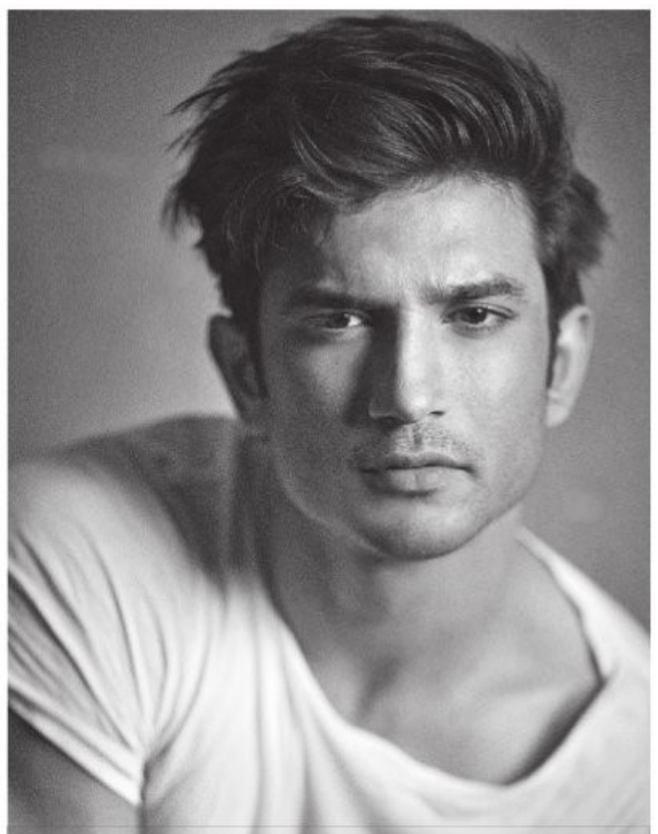
Shifting lanes to *Gran Turismo* – the game play looks so incredibly fluid that even Xbox fan girls cannot play the Forza card to debate driving-sims on the consoles. The event shifts gear to Ratchet and Clank – which looks as inexplicably fun as it always did.

I got a little distracted during *Project Athia* with its muted music. But yaay, +5 points to PS5 for another exclusive with a female lead. What is the other one you ask? *Horizon Forbidden West!* The trailer is enthralling, and I cannot wait to play in that environment which is a perfect mix of nature and sci-fi fantasy. And there is a third, and a fourth, and a fifth! – which means women leads have almost exceeded representation of monster/alien character leads. Crediting Solar Ash, Soulstorm and Goodbye Volcano High – with their futuristic vibes, and narrative adventure tracks, respectively.

A new dystopian themed franchise is all set to release – *Returnal*. The representation station has a lot of passengers – including independent developers! Ember labs' new game *KENA* for the PS5 rivals pixar graphics, with a spritely young girl adventuring through mythical lands with her magical spear/staff.

The games continue to look ahead, with Stray – if we like cats, neon lights and the future. *Ghost-wire Tokyo* looks like it has maxed out testing the graphical strength of the PS5, and I am looking forward to playing it on max difficulty. Silently slipping in, *Stealth King Agent 47* returns with a new title for the PS5. And we have hit the halfway mark on this reveal event rap ballad. The second half has more twists, obviously. More coming your way in part 2 of this article entitled 'PS: I love It'.

(This economics graduate spends her leisure time preparing for the zombie apocalypse)



Sushant Singh Rajput no more

CE Features

Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput, who was last seen in the Netflix film *Drive* (2019), was found dead at his Bandra residence. He was 34 years old.

Sushant had made his debut in the television show *Kis Desh Mein Hai Meraa Dil*. His has appeared in films like *Kai Po Che, Shuddh Desi Romance, Detective Byomkesh Bakshi, M.S. Dhoni: The Untold Story,* and *Sonchiriya.*

Rajput's last big-screen release was Rajkumar Hirani's *Chhichhore.*

Sushant's colleagues from the Bollywood fraternity expressed shock over his sudden demise. "Mumbai Police is investigating. No suicide note has been recovered from his residence," the official statement of Mumbai Police read.

Daniel Craig's *No Time To Die* release date moved up

CE Features

Daniel Craig

The upcoming James Bond film, *No Time To Die*, which was supposed to release on November 25 will be coming out five days ahead of the set date. The makers revealed the change on Twitter.

"The return of old friends in *NO TIME TO DIE*. In cinemas 12th November UK, 20th November US," read the tweet from the film's official Twitter handle.

The film was initially supposed to release in 2019 but was pushed to 2020 in February. But due to the pandemic, it further got postponed to April and then eventually to November.

The film marks the last film of Daniel Craig as James Bond. It is also speculated that the next James Bond would be played by an actress.

Directed by Fukunaga, the film also stars Lea Seydoux, Rami Malek, and Ana De Armas.

KARVA 3 TO BRING TILAK AND MEGHANA GAONKAR TOGETHER ON BIG SCREEN

The off-screen best friends will be pairing up for the first time for a horror thriller directed by Vishal Shekar to be produced by Krishna Chaitanya along with Dr Suri, under the banner, Swarnalatha Productions

A Sharadhaa

Karva 3 will be the next film to be made under the banner of Swarnalatha Productions. Producer Krishna Chaitanya, who has previously made films like *6-5=2* and *Dia,* is now taking up this project, which will also have Dr. Suri getting associated with the film. The makers, who are coming up with sequels to the hit film, *Karva*, will be keeping *Karva 2*, directed by Navaneeth, on hold, and will be starting with *Karva 3*, which will mark the directorial debut of Vishal Shekar. The talking point of this film will also be the lead star cast, with the horror-thriller bringing together two best friends on board -- Tilak Shekar and Megahana Gaonkar. Though they have known each other for a long time, this film will their first on-screen outing together. Confirming the news, Krishna Chaitanya said, "Newcomer Vishal Shekar has come up with a fantastic script, which I felt will be a unique subject for a horror thriller. He is now getting ready with the storyboard, and this will be the next project to go on floors as soon as the cinema industry gets to start shooting." According to the producer, *Karva 3* will take a link from Karva, and will also feature a few artistes from part 1. They are yet to finalise on the rest of the cast and technical crew.

Looking forward to exploring a horror thriller for the first time: Meghana Gaonkar

It all happened over a meeting with producer Krishna Chaitanya, says Meghana Gaonkar, adding that she is excited to have bagged *Karva 3*. "When I met the producer, they were discussing this project and offered me to play the female lead in it. I had watched *Karva,* and had liked the film directed by Navaneeth. It had good content, and music director Ravi Basrur had come up with an excellent background score. So when I heard the gist of *Karva 3*, I decided to be a part of the project," says Meghana, who will be exploring a horror subject for the first time. "I am glad I got an opportunity to play the lead. I would have accepted this even if the producer had offered me a special role in any of his projects because I can't say 'no' to Krishna Chaitanya," she adds.

About being paired opposite Tilak, Meghana says, "Though we have known each other for many years, this is the first subject to bring us together. Even though I was approached to work with Tilak in a few projects when I started my career, I had to let go of them because the script did not work well for us. However, this story by Vishal Shekar, chosen by Krishna Chaitanya, is good and fits the bill. We are both looking forward to bringing out our best on screen," she says.

Krishna Chaitanya asked me to narrate a story, and it clicked: Vishal Shekar

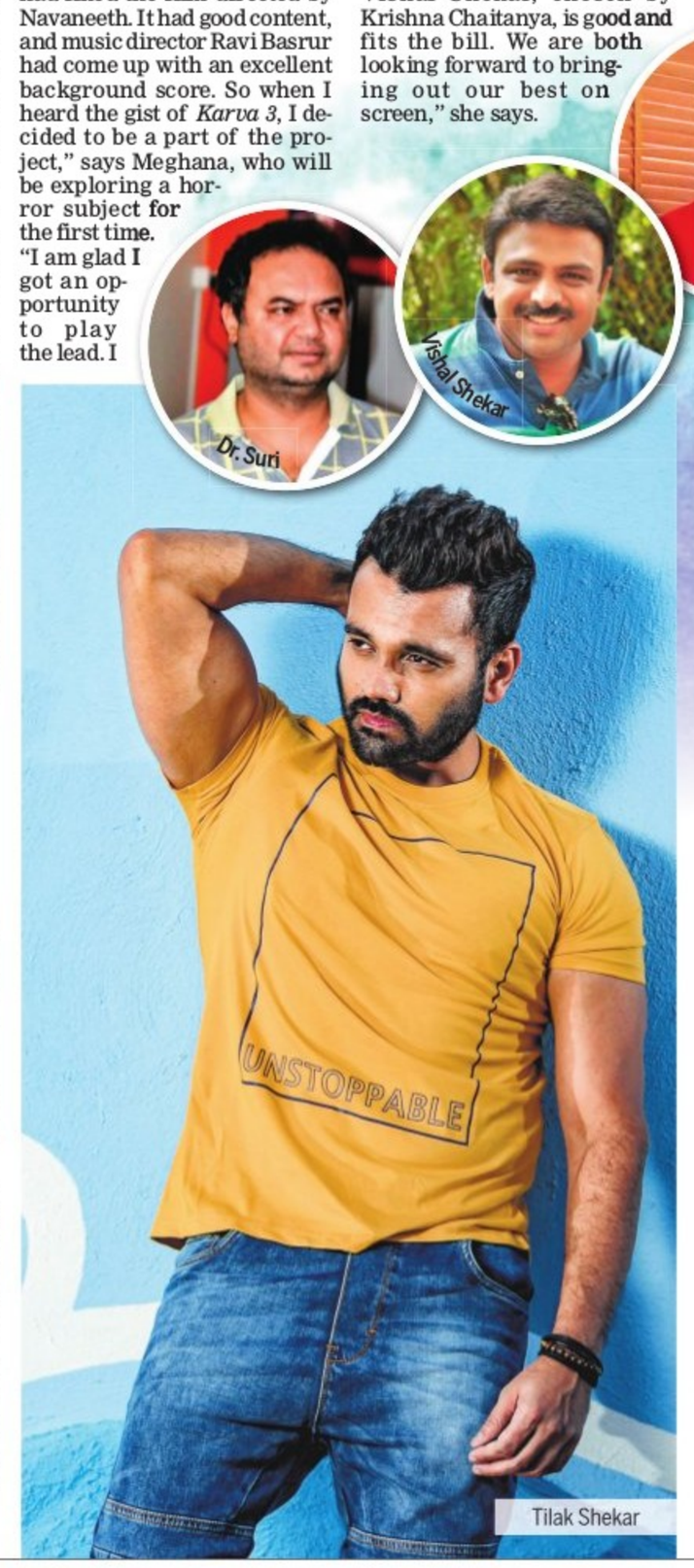
Debutant director Vishal Shekar comes from a fine arts and animation background and is currently working with a multinational company. He was simultaneously pursuing his dream of turning director, which finally comes to reality with *Karva 3*. It was a stint in doing short movies that got him his first feature film.

"Krishna Chaitanya had watched my short film that I had presented and he asked me to narrate a story. It turned out to be a prospective feature film for me," says Vishal, who is currently getting ready with the film's storyboard. "We are working on the dialogues, and coming up with character sketches and placements, as this will help us be organised when we get to the sets," he says.

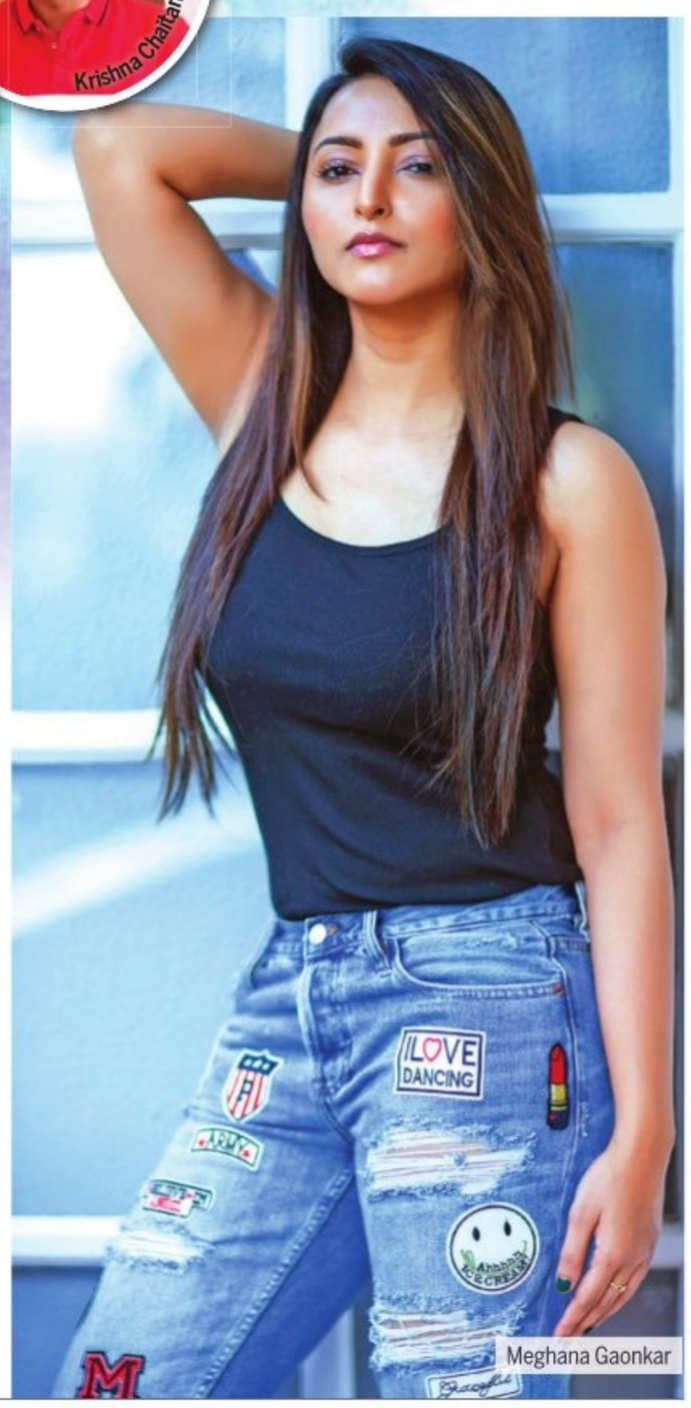
We were looking for right subject that will raise expectations: Tilak Shekar

Tilak has been waiting to get back to work and is looking to start shooting for *Karva 3*. "When we presented *Karva*, which had an open end, to the audience, there was always a curiosity element about what next will come from the team. From our end, we were looking for the right subject that will raise the expectations, which came through Vishal Shekar's script. I am excited to work on this project," says Tilak, who was also a part of Karva. *Karva 2* will happen after *Karva 3*, he reveals. "We wanted to be unique and innovative in our thoughts, and given the kind of entertainment we are getting on digital platforms, we as filmmakers should give people something they haven't seen before. That's the reason we decided to go a little ahead, and go with part 3 and come back to 2," he says.

Talking about getting paired opposite Meghana, Tilak says, "It was unfortunate that having known each other for so long, we didn't get an opportunity to work together. However, I am glad it is happening now, and with a great script. We were looking for an actor, who can play that mature role, and she perfectly fits the bill."



Tilak Shekar



Meghana Gaonkar

Spike Lee apologises for defending Woody Allen

CE Features

Filmmaker Spike Lee has issued an apology for his comments defending director and his friend Woody Allen against the whole "cancel culture" in Hollywood.

He took to Twitter to take back his words of support, reports variety.com.

"I deeply apologise. My words were wrong. I do not and will not tolerate sexual harassment, assault or violence. Such treatment causes real damage that can't be minimised," he posted on Twitter on Saturday.

Spike Lee

In an interview on a radio station WOR's talk show *In the Morning*, Lee shared his thoughts on how Allen has been treated. "I'd just like to say Woody Allen is a great, great filmmaker and this cancel thing is not just Woody. And I think when we look back on it we are going to see that - short of killing somebody - I don't know you that you can just erase somebody like they never existed," Lee said.

"Woody is a friend of mine, a fellow Knick fan, so I know he's going through it right now," he added.

Allen has fallen out of grace with many people after accusations resurfaced that he molested his adoptive daughter Dylan Farrow when she was 7-years-old. He has denied the allegations.

Amazon also canceled a movie deal with Allen, resulting in them settling a $68 million lawsuit.

Alia Bhatt-Sanjay Dutt's *Sadak 2* to get a digital release?

Pooja Bhatt, Sanjay Dutt and Alia Bhatt

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After *Gulabo Sitabo, Shakuntala Devi* and *Gunjan Saxena - The Kargil Girl,* Mahesh Bhatt's *Sadak 2* might be the next Bollywood film to opt for a direct-to-digital release. According to reports, the makers are contemplating skipping the theatrical route and premiering the film on Disney+ Hotstar.

Produced by Fox Star Studios and Vishesh Films, *Sadak 2* is a sequel to Mahesh Bhatt's 1991 romantic thriller *Sadak*. The upcoming film stars Alia Bhatt, Sanjay Dutt, Aditya Roy Kapoor and Pooja Bhatt in the lead roles. The film marks Mahesh Bhatt's comeback as a director after 21 years.

Earlier, Akshay Kumar's *Laxmmi Bomb* and Ajay Devgn's *Bhuj: The Pride of India* were speculated to release directly on Disney+Hostar. There are also rumours of *Dil Bechara*, the Indian adaptation of The *Fault In Our Stars*, and the crime-comedy *Lootcase* releasing on the same platform.

The Beatles: Get Back documentary postponed for a year

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Peter Jackson's upcoming documentary *The Beatles: Get Back* was initially slated to release on this September 4 but it is pushed to as far as 27 August 2021, according to Disney, the distributor of the film.

The film is expected to offer a cheerful narrative of the world-famous band and their split up. Unlike other versions, this documentary, according to initial buzz, will show the lighter side of the story.

Earlier, Paul McCartney said that the film shows the truth about *The Beatles* recording together. Variety quoted him as saying, "I am really happy that Peter has delved into our archives to make a film that shows the truth about The Beatles recording together. The friendship and love between us comes over and reminds me of what a crazily beautiful time we had."